Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-221 *17 November 1989*

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Cuba

Bush Reaction to Anti-Noriega Plot Report Noted

FL1611225889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2046 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] The U.S. newspaper LOS ANGELES TIMES today revealed that U.S. President George Bush authorized the CIA to bring about a coup d'etat in Panama to oust General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

On his way to Houston, Bush neither confirmed nor denied the newspaper report. He contended that he should not publicly comment on covert operations because if he did so, they would no longer be covert.

U.S. secret services call covert operations those efforts made by their personnel to bring about coups d'etat, kidnappings, assassinations, and other actions designed to destabilize foreign governments.

According to the LOS ANGELES TIMES, the CIA has called this plan Panama Five, in reference to the four previous attempts made to capture Noriega, who has been the target of a U.S. harassment campaign since February 1988.

Ecuadoran Views U.S. Envoy's 'Awful Farewell'

FL1711043089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0039 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Report from correspondent Daniel Torres in Quito—live]

[Text] This is my second and last report from Quito, Ecuador, on 16 November 1989. Friends, the Yankee ambassador to Ecuador has had an awful farewell here.

Wilfrido Lucero, president of the Ecuadoran Congress, has described U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador Richard Holwill's remarks about the Ecuadoran Congress as an awful farewell.

I should note that, in the opinion of various popular sectors, this ambassador has taken to making silly remarks. Holwill said that it was not any punishment to limit the number of invitations to Ecuadoran congressmen to attend activities in the United States, and that the Ecuadoran congressmen did not have enough time to work for their country and that they did not have time to accept invitations which, under the circumstances, would be an inconvenience.

Commenting on this incident, Lucero said that he hopes that U.S.-Ecuadoran relations will not be affected, because the errors and silly remarks of an ambassador cannot bring about confrontation between two peoples, and it would be ridiculous to expect Congress to destroy the mural painting by (Oswaldo Guayazamin) in the main session room.

The truth is that Richard Holwill, who is already leaving the U.S. diplomatic mission here in Ecuador, meddled directly in Ecuadoran infrastructural, economic, and organizational problems. He also criticized the government of Rodrigo Borja and made a number of inaccurate remarks that were condemned by the left and the right alike in this Latin American nation.

The evening newspaper EL COMERCIO today carries the following headline on the ambassador's farewell: Awful Farewell of the American Ambassador. Lucero considers the ambassador an inept diplomat.

Labor Leader Denounces Television Marti Plans

FL1611140189 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] During the meeting of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU], which is being held in Prague, CSSR, Jesus Escandel, a member of the National Council of the Cuban Workers Federation, said that socialism is the most just and advanced system ever known to mankind. The Cuban leader also called for increased solidarity with the workers' struggle in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Panama, as well as with other peoples in the region that are confronting U.S. aggression.

During his speech to the WFTU General Council Escandel denounced Washington's plan to inaugurate an anti-Cuban television station, which he said violates Cuban sovereignty and international agreements.

Terms of U.S. Aid to Poland, Hungary 'Blackmail'

FL1711023089 Havana Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] The U.S. Senate has approved loans to Poland and Hungary, but under the condition that they will be canceled if any arms are delivered to Nicaragua or Cuba. A clause containing this blackmail was added to a bill on economic aid to Poland and Hungary which is now being discussed in the U. S. House of Representatives. The bill was initially approved by the Senate.

The report, which was carried by the CSSR newspaper RUDE PRAVO, adds that the $657-million loan to Warsaw and the $81-million loan to Budapest will also be suspended if the Communist Party seizes power again in either of these countries.

Malmierca Discusses Reintegration Into OAS

FL1611184689 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0033 GMT 16 Nov 89

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has said that Cuba will accept the invitation to rejoin the OAS if Latin American countries feel that its presence in the organization is useful. Malmierca made this statement to national reporters who asked him questions just before he ended his official visit to Bucharest, which was made at the invitation of his Romanian counterpart, Ion Stoian.

Malmierca referred to the invitation extended by the presidents of Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Venezuela, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentina after a meeting last month in Ica, Peru, and the foreign minister expressed gratitude for it.

We feel that if Latin American and Caribbean states think that Cuba's reintegration into the OAS is opportune, we are ready to accept it and forget past events of a negative nature which blocked our relations on the continent, Malmierca said. However, if the decision to rejoin is made, and if it is made very clear that under no circumstances will the decision be considered a gesture for which Cuba will pay a political price, the Cuban Government is ready to go ahead with it, Malmierca emphasized.

Castro Sends Congratulations to SWAPO's Nujoma

FL1611200089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Nov 89

["Text" of message sent by Cuban President Fidel Castro to Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO; date and place not given]

[Text] To Comrade Sam Nujoma, SWAPO president

Dear Comrade Nujoma:

On behalf of the people, Communist Party, and Government of Cuba, I am honored and pleased to congratulate you with all my heart for the victory obtained by SWAPO in the elections [words indistinct] have been certified as free and fair. This culminates the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78, which puts an end to South African colonial domination and opens the road to independence for the people of Namibia. Acting in a manner that was unequivocally in favor of the patriotic alternative that SWAPO has historically embodied, the Namibian masses demonstrated their determination at the polls to honor the sacrifices made and to emulate the fighters who sustained the cause of national liberation for long and heroic years.

This crucial victory is shared with you by all the progressive forces of the world, particularly the frontline countries of the Organization of African Unity and the Nonaligned Movement, who never faltered in their encouragement and active support for the Namibian people's struggle for independence and national dignity. This is also a victory of the people, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, whose support for their Namibian brothers' cause is an example of loyalty to the principles of solidarity, despite the price paid in enormous sacrifices. It is, without a doubt, enlightening and timely evidence that resistance and combat, firmly entrenched in loyalty to principles and clarity of strategy, are the tools used so political realism can prevail and the international community—which has repeatedly been ignored, as happened in this case for more than a decade—can exercise its will.

At this time of joy and necessary reflection on the new and no-less complex stage that now begins, we pay a tribute of admiration and respect to the thousands of Namibian combatants who died to make this day possible. These generous acts will nurture the future of a free and independent Namibia.

I ask you to convey to your people, through the leaders and members of SWAPO, our wishes for peace and prosperity and the undeniable solidarity of the Cuban people.

Fraternally yours,

Fidel Castro Ruz.

More Internationalists Arrive From Angola

FL1611133389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Excerpt] During the last few hours over 150 internationalist combatants have victoriously arrived in the fatherland from the People's Republic of Angola. A greeting from their people was conveyed by Olga Rosa Gomez Cortes, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee. They were also welcomed by Brigade General (Rolando Quintelan Bles) from the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and Colonel Hector Rodriguez Perez from the Ministry of the Interior. [passage omitted]

Congolese Education Minister Arrives in Havana

FL1611141589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Comrade Pierre-Damien Boussoukou-Mboumba, member of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party and minister of primary education and literacy of the Congo, has arrived in our country at the invitation of the Cuban Ministry of Education [MINED]. Elisa Wong, vice minister of education of Cuba, welcomed the Congolese leader at the airport along with other MINED officials.

[Begin recording] [Boussoukou-Mboumba in French with simultaneous Spanish translation] The objective of our visit is, first of all, to obtain precise information about the Cuban educational system, the way it works, which means a lot to us as far as acquiring experience is concerned.

[Reporter] What is your opinion about the level of development we have acquired in education here in Cuba?

[Boussoukou-Mboumba] It is one of the areas in which Cuba has really been successful. The educational system, based on everything we have seen, seems to us to be completely democratic. Furthermore, I would like to learn more about the relationship between school and the productive work in school which prepares the men of the future. [end recording]

During their stay in Cuba, the delegation headed by the Congolese minister will hold working meetings with authorities of the MINED and the Ministry of Higher

Education of our country. They will also tour educational centers here in Havana City and on the Isle of Youth. This Congolese delegation will remain in Cuba until 20 November.

International Television Programming Meeting Ends

FL1611173589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0009 GMT 16 Nov 89

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The next meeting of the Intervision council, which will be held next week in Prague, Czechoslovakia, will analyze the international consequences of an interventionist television station like the one the United States is planning against Cuba.

The working group on the planning and exchange of programs of the International Organization of Radio and Television [OIRT] broadcasting system, which today ended its working session in Havana, has decided to take the proposal to the meeting in Prague, an action which shows firm support for our country.

Members of television organizations from the Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria, and OIRT participated in the meeting of the group which elected Cuba to one of its vice-chairmanships. The Soviet representative, (Klusov), was elected chairman for the next 2 years while the Polish representative, (Vitaliy Kharovskiy), was elected to the other of the two vice-chairmanships.

In a brief closing statement, the Soviet representative, (Aleksandr Statyev), and the secretary general of OIRT emphasized that worthwhile agreements were reached for the strengthening of cooperation and exchange.

Maria Elena Lopez, the representative of the Cuban delegation who was recently elected vice chairman of the working collective, said that the document presented by our country on U.S. tele-aggression will be added to the final protocol. She assessed the decision as a show of support for Cuba's just denunciations. She added that during the recently concluded meeting the growing importance of the work the group carried out was reiterated.

Machado, Rizo Open Sugar Workers Congress

FL1711034089 Havana Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Jose Machado Ventura and Julian Rizo, member and alternate member of the Politburo, respectively, presided over the opening of the 18th Sugar Workers Congress today in this capital.

Sugarcane development, problems affecting sparsely populated areas, and investments in irrigation and draining systems that improve sugarcane growth were at the center of the discussions of the opening session of the 18th Sugar Workers Congress, which is being held in this capital. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Further Reportage on Murder of Jesuit Priests

Cristiani News Conference

PA1711033689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0033 GMT 17 Nov 89

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with unidentified reporters in San Salvador on 16 November—recorded]

[Text] [Cristiani] First, I would like to thank you for being here. Briefly, before beginning the question and answer session, we would like to say before the international press that we condemn in the strongest terms the murders of the Jesuit priests, their cook, and her daughter early this morning at the Central American University, UCA. We feel that these incidents further complicate our country's critical situation. Groups or minds want to hamper the democratic process, especially the peace process that the government of the Republic has tried to advance and will continue to pursue.

From the start we ordered an investigation because we believe that now that the people and all of the country's institutions have supported the peace process, it is no longer possible to continue having these savage incidents take place that are aimed at blocking this process. We have made preliminary investigations that merely tell us how things happened. We have already taken some procedural steps, such as [word indistinct] where the impact was felt and where the crimes were perpetrated. In sum, we did the things normally done at the start of these kinds of investigations.

There is a possible witness to these crimes, but, unfortunately, he has not been located so that he can be questioned by the investigators. They will certainly make every effort to locate him so that he can provide information that will clarify this regrettable incident.

I suppose the Jesuits' provincial will host a news conference. You have many of the details, so we are going to skip them. The only things we have found are fingerprints that are being studied and shell casings from AK-47 and M-16 rifles. We will submit them for ballistic tests. We will also conduct forensic tests, which will begin soon. Another important detail is that inside the building there was a room or library with videocassettes. It was like a studio. This room looked like it had been burned after being ransacked. All these things and other details have been reported and submitted to the investigators. We also talked to the Jesuits' provincial and told him that we were determined to get to the bottom of this. We asked him for his help, and he expressed his readiness to assist in the investigation. We are grateful for this help because in the past cooperation with the authorities has not always been forthcoming.

We hope that with this help and with the remarks by Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, with whom we also spoke this morning, this case will not be politicized and justice can be served, avoiding reaching hasty or biased conclusions by any of group or party. We think and agree with Msgr Rivera y Damas that this is how a serious investigation should be conducted. We hope that this investigation will lead us to the heart of the matter. Regardless of who the perpetrators are, we want punishment for those attempting to hinder the process of peace and democracy in El Salvador.

And so we begin the questions. Perhaps Mr Sandoval or Ana Maria may wanto help us to put some order [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Quesion indistinct]

[Cristiani] First, the government communique repeats ECO [Mexican news agency] reports, which mention unknown terrorists. Regardless of the side that is involved, this is the way to describe these actions. These are terrorist actions because of their overall context, no matter who [words indistinct]. Let me repeat: We have comments by church officials who were giving versions that have not been corroborated. We have been told there were several persons wearing uniforms, to cite these versions verbatim. I do not want to excuse or accuse anyone, but I feel that is not categorical proof. Today, many people who do not belong to the Armed Forces are wearing uniforms.

Let me repeat: One cannot say one thing or another, but I do think this must be investigated. If members of the Armed Forces are found to be involved, they will feel the full weight of the law.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] Based on the data I have cited, I could not arrive at that conclusion, but I would characterize these two events as abominable. Obviously [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] This would indicate that if groups are moving about the city during the curfew hours those groups belong either to the Armed Forces or to the FMLN, at least the majority of them. If there are civilian groups doing this, they would be doing it at great risk in that area. I do not believe that the time at which the crime was committed can lead to conclusions, only clues.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] Statements differing from official government communiques are not endorsed by the government.

[Reporter] You have said [words indistinct] the peace process in the country. [words indistinct]

[Cristiani] I believe that there is never 100 percent backing for any decision that is adopted, and this opens the door for people to believe that in the Armed Forces

there could be groups or individuals who are in disagreement. The important factor regarding the Armed Forces is its institutional position. In my opinion this is what really counts and what is really important. Institutionally, the Armed Forces have been participating in the dialogue process effort, and they have supported the position of the government.

As far as I am concerned, the institutional position of the Armed Forces, not individual positions, is what counts.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] We have tried to implement a program to help people who have had to leave their neighborhoods. There are some centers, such as the [word indistinct] Palace. There are others that the [words indistinct] had been able to occupy but [words indistinct] the donation of food for specific programs, we have authorized the donors to occupy [words indistinct] food to the persons who are out of their residential areas.

There is a program to provide aid in this field. We are also in touch with the Archbishopric of San Salvador, which has some centers and religious schools at its disposal. Some of these personnel are going there and the centers will receive food assistance.

In the health area, the Health Ministry and the Salvadoran Social Security Institute are coordinating efforts.

As for specific medicines needed for situations like this, the military hospital [words indistinct]. Our foreign minister requested medicine in Washington. France and Guatemala have offered to help. The Cabinet is handling this. I mentioned the CONADES [National Commission for the Care of the Displaced] program. We decided to give these people the status of temporarily displaced and obtained the authorization of donors [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] We have requested no additional military aid. We requested tear gas, because it is a useful tool when they take refuge inside residences [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] We held a meeting with the Armed Forces High Command and agreed to investigate and punish anyone involved in this incident. I advocate this position not only as president of the Republic, but also as a member of the Armed Forces High Command.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] Militarily speaking, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front will achieve nothing. Our actions are restricted because we are operating in populated areas and because we are trying to protect civilians. This makes our work more difficult and slows down our operations. Militarily speaking, they have not even been able to occupy a civil defense position. I believe that the Armed Forces will be able to assume full control of the situation in the capital.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] It is a national network, not the official radio station. It is a national network. It is no longer possible to express personal opinions during interviews. The official position we voiced in a communique this morning is unchanged. We are maintaining that position. We will proceed with our in-depth investigation into the incident and determine who is responsible, no matter who might be involved.

That is the position of the Salvadoran Government. With the information it has, the government cannot point the finger at anyone. It cannot accuse anyone yet, because there is no conclusive evidence in this case. We believe there may be some people who can cooperate with us if we help them. There may be some witnesses, who may be willing to cooperate, but they may not be available right now. [Words indistinct] he said he was willing to help. They wanted the investigations to take place.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] Well, I believe much depends on the position of the FMLN. I have listened to several versions all the way from demanding my resignation to assassination attempts against me to finish everything up. Under these terms, they are saying we are about to create a new Lebanon, and they are saying the FMLN has control over certain liberated areas in the capital. However, if we talked about the situation rationally and reasonably, there could be [word indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] Well, we have talked about the Air Force situation in the past. The Air Force has orders not to bomb and not to use its weapons against urban areas of the capital unless it has been able to detect and isolate a clear FMLN target. In this regard, Air Force bombs were not used until last night when Air Force planes were attacked from some sugarcane fields north of the 1533 landing strip [16-second break in reception]...use bombs to stop the use of FMLN mortars. The Air Force used machineguns [words indistinct] the only time they were used within the urban area, to be sure they were not endangering anyone, were two mortars installed in the soccer field of the national university. [words indistinct] One was fired at the police battalion in Zacamil neighborhood, and the other was firing at the 1st Brigade. [words indistinct] I believe that among the weapons that were seized, there are some of that. I am not too sure.

In the [words indistinct], near the San Jacinto Hill were used to support troops that were using the San Jacinto Hill. We believe it was the FMLN withrawing [words indistinct] in Santa Marta. Up to now, the position of the

Armed Forces Staff and the High Command in the use of the Air Force is only [words indistinct] and when specific targets can be isolated in which the civilian population is not endangered.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] I do not have it with me right now, but there will be a report on the military situation [words indistinct] by the High Command tonight.

No, I do not have the latest figures.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] Yesterday the defense minister told me he spoke with the representative of the International Red Cross Committee upon receiving a written request from the organization. The Armed Forces and the Army have no restrictions impeding the International Red Cross or the National Red Cross or the Green Cross from fulfilling the tasks they carry out. We have established operations with them. They have been involved in other cases prior to this one. They have served, and they continue serving. The Armed Forces have no restrictions impeding the work of the International Red Cross.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] Definitely this is not the kind of situation that allows one to be free of concern, of anguish, but there is no reason for real concern because the Armed Forces know how to control the situation. There is no doubt about that. This is a situation that results from a hardened FMLN position. They are making a final and maximum, which is the word they use, effort. They are determined about one thing and are not contributing to others. Some of their commanders have held news conferences. I do not know how. [Words indistinct] In Mexico a television station reported that they could postpone the dialogue but [words indistinct]. Things like that. This kind of a position cannot be taken seriously. We have already stated our position, which is if there is not an immediate and effective cease-fire, the government will not just lend itself to a game. The FMLN says it is pacifist, but it must be understood that they did not plan the operation they are carrying out right now just this past Friday. They had been planning it for a long time. This means that they have used a tactic that included going to the dialogue in Mexico and in Costa Rica, as well as other activities, while planning this offensive. War is what is on their mind, not peace.

They had been planning this action while playing a pacifist role in Mexico and Costa Rica. By the way, President Arias is very upset with this position of the FMLN, a position he views as crooked.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] We believe that this is a difficult moment, a moment of confrontation. [Words indistinct] In the actions that have been carried out in the capital, on the outskirts, and elsewhere, everything invariably ends with the Army entering, without problems. The [words indistinct] do not establish restrictions to keep them from accomplishing their tasks. I have been told, however, that the FMLN has left Green Cross people without uniforms in the middle of the street and then some FMLN people put on those uniforms and leave.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] When the investigation team showed up at the site of the crime, they talked to a priest and he told them that the person was no longer there. The priest gave them a report of the events as they had been related to him previously by that person. However, when the team arrived the person was no longer there. The priest [words indistinct] will try to get in contact with this man, but he was not there then. [Words indistinct] provincial has said that he will cooperate in the investigation.

Further on Investigation

PA1711002889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2346 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—When answering a question on the possibility that the six Jesuits and two other persons could have been murdered by the military, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said today that "if the Armed Forces people did it, the weight of the law will fall on them also."

Cristiani "strongly condemned" the multiple murder that took place early this morning and attributed it to "groups or minds that want to hinder the process of democracy and peace that has been carried out in El Salvador."

The president said he was determined "to investigate this to the very end, regardless of who did it."

He emphasized that it is too early "to give any opinion" on who could have committed the murders, pointing out that the fact that the men who did it were wearing uniforms and moving at night during the strict curfew in the city "is not conclusive."

Cristiani said that "the Armed Forces as well as the guerrilla groups move during the curfew hours."

He stated that in agreement with the Armed Forces General Staff, with whom he met this morning to discuss the issue, he has ordered an investigation.

The Salvadoran president disclosed the existence of "a possible witness who has not been interrogated by those who are carrying out the investigation," who have fingerprints and empty cartridges from bullets for AK-47s and M-16s.

Cristiani disavowed versions reported during the day by the government radio network that claim the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas committed the murder.

In another part of his news conference, the Salvadoran president admitted that within the Armed Forces "there might groups of persons who do not agree with the government," but he added that "as an institution, they are with the government."

Foreign Minister Accuses FMLN

PA1611230889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2106 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Washington, 16 Nov (EFE)—Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro today condemned the assassination of six Jesuits and two women in his country, and he blamed the ultraleftist groups for it, although he said he had no proof.

"It is a repugnant crime," said the foreign minister, who was attending the 19th OAS General Assembly, and he described the assassinations as a "desperate action taken by the left."

Joao Baena Soares, secretary general of the OAS, was asked today to report to the assembly on the situation in El Salvador in compliance with the resolution on that country that was approved on Tuesday.

A communique released today by a Farabundo Marti National LIberation Front [FMLN] spokesman in Washington blamed the Salvadoran Army for the crime, and added that "all of the bodies had bullet wounds in the head, indicating that they were executed."

Pacas Castro said today that the Salvadoran Government, headed by Alfredo Cristiani, will maintain its commitment to a dialogue to discuss the suspension of the hostilities and to implement an internal peace process.

Moreover, he announced that an official mission, capable of making decisions and commitments, will travel to Caracas in the hope of meeting with representatives of the FMLN guerrillas.

The Salvadoran foreign minister said the situation in his country is under control and that Army troops are slowly moving into the densely populated areas to avoid bloodshed among the civilian population.

As for a request by the International Red Cross to call for a cease-fire for humanitarian reasons to treat the wounded and civilian victims, Pacas Castro said that the first-aid brigades continue to do their work in El Salvador.

As for the assassination of the six Jesuits and the two women, he said "he condemned this type of violence" because Ignacio Ellacuria, one of the Jesuit priests who was killed, "was my teacher," and he described the priest as a very valuable man who worked for peace and for the economic and social development of the population.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, in statements to the press, regretted the death of the clergymen. "Working for peace is very difficult," he said. Madrigal Nieto said today he hoped the dialogue between the government and the guerrillas would continue despite the war.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Irias supported the statements of his Costa Rican colleague, and he condemned the use of violence as a political tool.

Opposition Accuses Government

PA1711045189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0141 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE) — The opposition Social Christian People's Movement (MPSC) and the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) today condemned the assassination of six Jesuits in San Salvador, and held the government and the Armed Forces responsible for this crime.

The MPSC requested the international community and the diplomatic corps accredited in San Salvador to make "good offices before the Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces" so they "adopt realistic positions and agree to an immediate negotiation of a cease-fire with the guerrillas."

The Social Christians stressed that the bloodshed of civilians must cease and that it is necessary to create as soon as possible the necessary conditions to bring peace to El Salvador.

The MNR said the assassination of the Jesuits—five Spaniards and a Salvadoran—"seeks to silence and subdue with terror the work of the Central American University," whose rector was Ignacio Ellacuria. "This is not the first time that the Central American University and its most outstanding officials are the object of accusations and verbal and physical aggression by ultrarightist sectors," the social democratic MNR noted.

The MNR is "concerned and surprised by the irresponsible and suspicious conduct of the Salvadoran Government and the Armed Forces' High Command of holding the guerrillas responsible for the assassinations, which gives carte blanche to the death squads and to the mass terror of 1980, 1981, and 1982."

The highest MNR and MPSC leaders, Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora respectively, sought refuge and are at the Venezuelan and Mexican Embassies accredited in San Salvador.

The government and the Armed Forces condemned the assassination of the Jesuits. Moreover, President Alredo Cristiani said that if it is proven that Armed Forces members are responsible for the crime, "the full force of law will be imposed upon them."

San Salvador residents are enduring the 6th consecutive day of bloody clashes that began with the Farabundo Marti offensive on 11 November.

The death toll is some 1,000 and the conflict seems to intensify each day, as evidenced by the continuous army attacks on the rebels redoubts.

Armed Forces Communique

PA1611193089 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1753 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces on 16 November in San Salvador]

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces hereby inform the Salvadoran people and international and domestic public opinion that they emphatically condemn the treacherous murder committed by FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] guerrillas of Dr Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Central American University, as well as other university officials at this center of higher education. The Armed Forces also strongly reject any reports on this murder that attempt to involve them. The Salvadoran Armed Forces are right now bent on obeying their constitutional obligations of preserving security, defending the country's sovereignty and the integrity of its territory, as well as maintaining the country's peace, tranquillity, and public security.

The Armed Forces reiterate to the Salvadoran people and the international community that all their men are serving the country to safeguard the property and lives and are strictly upholding the law within the framework of a respect for human rights. We also make a special call to the international community not to be taken in by unfounded news spread by the FMLN Marxist-Leninist guerrillas, with which they try to hide their failed armed adventure against the Salvadoran people.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces have professionally repelled most of the invaders' attacks, with which the FMLN is attempting to seize power through a generalized massacre against the Salvadoran people.

El Salvador, 16 November 1989.

Deaths Linked to Romero Murder

PA1711032289 Paris AFP in Spanish 0028 GMT 17 Nov 89

[By Arturo Gudino]

[Excerpts] [no dateline as received]—Those responsible for the assassination of six members of his order, including Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Central American University (UCA), "are the same ones who killed Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of San Salvador."

"I do not want to accuse anyone, but it is obvious where the facts point," Jose Maria Tojeira said at a news conference this afternoon in the UCA chapel, only a few meters from where the Jesuit priests and two employees were killed this morning.

The priest recalled that over the weekend the government radio network "launched fierce attacks against the [word indistinct], saying that a few priests had to be killed in this country or that they had to be placed in front of the cathedral so that the people could kill them by spitting at them."

Also, he added that on 13 November soldiers raided the homes of Ellacuria and his colleagues. "On that occasion the soldiers acted properly, according to what Father Ellacuria told me," added Tojeira, who was quite upset during the news conference.

"Apparently the men said they had reports that there were weapons in the residences. Of course they found nothing, and Father Ellacuria invited them to return on 14 November and go through the UCA campus, but they did not do so."

Also, Tojeira confirmed that yesterday afternoon and evening there was tight security in the vicinity of the UCA in the southern part of the capital.

"I do not know if the soldiers left the place later, but up until 2200 on 15 November, hours before the horrible massacre, the soldiers were there," Tojeira added.

"These are the facts. Therefore, we share the opinion of Archbishop Arturo Rivera that the ones responsible are the same ones who assassinated Msgr Romero," he added.

FMLN Communique

PA1611232489 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish 2207 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, on 16 November; place not given—read by Commander Nidia Diaz]

[Text] In view of the sinister massacre of Jesuit priests today, the FMLN reports the following to the Salvadoran people:

1. The massacre of the Jesuit priests Ignacio Ellacuria, Segundo Montes, Ignacio Martin Baro, Joaquin Lopez, Amando Lopez, and Juan Ramon Moreno, along with Mrs Julia Elba Ramos and her daughter Celina Ramos, was perpetrated by Armed Forces death squads at dawn today.

A group of about 30 men dressed in green stormed into the priests' residence and riddled them with bullets fired from high-caliber weapons. Three of the bodies were dragged out to the patio where they were given death blows that completely crushed their skulls.

2. This absurd massacre and the genocidal bombings against heavily populated areas in San Salvador and San Miguel have been ordered by Alfredo Cristiani and the Armed Forces' High Command, and are part of a counterinsurgency plan to destroy the political opposition

and create a state of terror among the civilian population. Public death threats were made against priest Ignacio Ellacuria over the Armed Forces national network.

The night of Wednesday, 15 November, the security corps searched the offices of the opposition groups looking for the leaders in order to kill them. This is the same scheme they used in 1979 and 1980 when they murdered Monsignor Romero and massacred the Revolutionary Democratic Front leaders, university rector Dr Felix Ulloa, and tens of thousands of Salvadorans.

3. There is no room for doubt that the ARENA [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance] regime and the Armed Forces are fascist beasts that have been mortally wounded. Therefore, we call on democratic peoples and religious leaders to protest such an unfortunate massacre, and on the international community to isolate the fascist regime of Alfredo Cristiani.

4. We call on the Armed Forces officers who knew Father Ignacio Ellacuria—and respected him for his past history in the fields of education, research, and scientific analysis of the true situation—to take a dignified and determined stand and not stain their hands with the blood of genocide.

There have always been honest patriots in the Armed Forces who do not have to sink with the criminals. We offer them our hands, so that together we will save the country, and so they will be able to save part of the Armed Forces. Alfredo Cristiani and the Armed Forces assassinated the Jesuit priests, but they are committing suicide.

5. The FMLN condemns this crime and joins in the sorrow of the Salvadoran people who lose in such an absurd manner some of the most appreciated intellectuals of our country. Their intelligence and sensibility were always at the service of change and progress in our society. Their work will be eternal, and the fascist irrationality will never put an end to that work.

We call all of our commands, fighters, militants, and our people in general to untiring combat. This struggle is the only answer we have for this despicable massacre. We must oust ARENA and La Tandona [1966 graduating class of the Gerardo Barrios Military School]. The fatherland is counting on our strength and our determination, and we will not fail the fatherland.

[Signed] FMLN General Command: Commander Jorge Shafik Handal, Commander Joaquin Villalobos, Commander Francisco Jovel, Commander Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Commander Eduardo Sancho

16 November 1989

Further FMLN Comment

PA1611225389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2117 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the Human Rights Promotion and Protection Secretariat of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, in El Salvador on 16 November—read by announcer]

[Text] The Human Rights Promotion and Protection Secretariat of the FMLN strongly condemns the massacre of five Spanish-born Jesuit priests and three Salvadoran citizens carried out by Salvadoran Armed Forces soldiers. Ignoring a martial law prohibiting all travel, early this morning a large number of heavily armed soldiers burst into the residence of the priests who manage the Jose Simeon Canas Catholic University [UCA]. The soldiers broke into the priests' bedrooms, captured them, and brutally murdered them in the garden.

The victims of this hateful collective crime were: Priest and Dr Ignacio Ellacuria, the UCA director; Priest and Dr Ignacio Martin Baro, UCA deputy director; Priest and Dr Segundo Montes, UCA Human Rights Institute director; Priest and Dr Amado Lopez, UCA dean; Priest Juan Ramon Moreno; and Joaquin Lopez y Lopez; as well as Julia Ramos and her 15-year-old daughter, Elba Ramos.

The persons who ordered the horrible murder of the Jesuits and three Salvadoran citizens are the same ones who ordered pilots, artillery men, and machine gunners in planes to attack the civilian population. They are the same ones who are against reaching a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict. They are the top military and political figures in Alfredo Cristiani's administration.

The Human Rights Promotion and Protection Secretariat calls on the international community to tie the hands of these murderers of Salvadoran people and to aid in finding a solution to the national crisis so we may attain a just and lasting peace our people so desire.

No more barbaric actions in San Salvador. No more injustices. Trial and punishment for the murderers. The military and political leaders of Cristiani's government must be ousted.

El Salvador, 16 Nov 1989

FMLN Touts Cause

PA1611171889 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador 1430 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] International journalists are issuing press dispatches from San Salvador confirming the murder of Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Catholic University; Ignacio Martin Baro of INOP [expansion unknown], Armando Lopez, and another four Jesuits. Press dispatches are confirming the murder of Ellacuria, Baro of INOP, and other Jesuits murdered by the Armed Forces in San Salvador. This is an act of desperation. This is an

act that will sink them in defeat. Our people will not stop with this crime. On the contrary, our people's fighting spirit and hatred will increase against those who ordered the death of Msgr Romero and against Colonel Ponce, who this morning ordered the killing of Ellacuria, Baro, Lopez, and other Jesuits in San Salvador.

The FMLN holds Colonel Ponce responsible for these killings carried out this morning by the military dictatorship in power in San Salvador. This was done by the military dictatorship which took off its civilian mask and is now wearing its death squad uniform.

Ponce's crime against seven [as heard] defenseless Jesuits, resulting in more than 20 priests being killed in the past 10 years, including Msgr Romero, is the straw that broke the camel's back. Our people's patience has worn out.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] urges the entire nation to join our combat. It urges the entire nation to make every effort possible to overthrow, immediately, this Army, which has become a military dictatorship. The FMLN urges all opposition parties, all patriotic officers, churches, and universities to join this struggle. No one should remain inactive.

We are urging those inside the garrisons to plot against Col Ponce. Conspiracy is the watchword. The people's reaction to the murderers of Ellacuria, Baro, and Romero is on.

The FMLN issues a call to the entire nation, to the intellectual sectors of this nation, the students, the workers, the religious sectors, the university students, the peasants, and the members of cooperatives to join the struggle. No one can remain inactive at this moment. People's committees for popular rebellion must be formed. There must be a popular rebellion committee in each neighborhood and town of El Salvador. We must get organized. We cannot remain in our homes. The FMLN orders the entire nation to get on a war footing against La Tandona [reference to the 1966 graduating class of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] and Col Ponce.

The FMLN urges the entire nation to get organized. In each small town the students, the clergy, cooperative members, the people, the rank and file of the Christian Democratic Party, the rank and file of all the opposition parties, the rank and file of the PCN [National Conciliation Party], and in fact, even the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] rank and file must see that this genocide cannot continue.

The murder of Ignacio Ellacuria is the straw which broke the camel's back. Our people's patience is worn out. The FMLN calls for organization throughout El Salvador. No town should be left out. Committees must be organized in each neighborhood. These committees must be kept secret in areas where the Armed Forces troops are still present. But they must be formed right now. They must be formed, regardless of political or religious ideologies. Secret committees must be formed in areas where the Armed Forces troops are present. We must begin organizing the people's rebellion in all the towns of the fatherland. We must build barricades, and strengthen neighborhoods. We must spread this wave of popular rebellion throughout the country.

The FMLN calls for organization in the country's 14 departments, in Sonsonate, Ahuachapan, Santa Ana, and in all the departmental capitals. We must increase our organization.

Archbishop Condemns Murder

PA1611183489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1726 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, today condemned the killing of Central American University (UCA) Rector Ignacio Ellacuria, five other Jesuit priests, and two domestics, and asked that that action "not serve as a pretext" for further bloodletting in El Salvador.

"Hatred has blinded them. Let these sacrifices mark an end to the violence and may they not be in any way a pretext for the violence to continue. If the spiral of violence continues, death and destruction will sweep many away, especially those who are most useful to our people's lives," Rivera y Damas said.

The archibshop went to the Jesuits' residence this morning, located in the Jardines de Guadalupe District, in western San Salvador, where the bodies of priests Ignacio Ellacuria, Ignacio Martin Baro, Segundo Montes, Amado Lopez, and Juan Ramon Moreno (Spaniards), and Joaquin Lopez (Salvadoran) are lying.

Domestics Elba and Cristina Ramos, 37 and 15, respectively, were murdered along with the priests.

The Salvadoran Government condemned the attack against the Jesuits, blamed "terrorist groups which are trying to besmirch the country's image," and announced "an immediate investigation to identify the culprits."

The murderers destroyed the Jesuits' home with a bomb and machinegunned them early today while the strict curfew imposed by the government was still in effect.

A Jesuit priest who asked to remain anonymous told the press that there is a person who "saw" the killings and "miraculously managed to escape."

The house of the priests was left in complete disarray. The bodies had been strewn throughout the dormitories and the garden. Their heads had been smashed.

The murderers placed a placard on one of the front gates of the residence which read: "The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has carried out an execution against opposing informers. To win or die, FMLN."

The Jesuit priest said that "the soldiers searched the house 3 days ago. They searched it while Father Ellacuria was present. They came here on 13 November, when the curfew began, and there have been soldiers at our door since 11 November."

According to the Jesuits, the eyewitness who survived and was not identified said that "some 30 or 40 soldiers fired from all directions and placed a bomb in the study of the residence."

The Jesuit priest stressed that the soldiers knew where each one of the murdered priests slept after searching the residence on 13 November.

Bishop Ramos Appeals for Peace

PA1611221889 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2011 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Interview with Bishop Roberto Joaquin Ramos by reporter at radio station—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Welcome, Mr Bishop.

[Ramos] Thank you. I want to appeal to the Salvadoran people for peace so that we may all struggle to build a community where [words indistinct] values.

It is regrettable that the dialogue process has come to a halt and that at a moment when the Germans are celebrating their unity, we are initiating an armed struggle.

I especially want to express my regret at the assassination of the Jesuit priests. This was a savage crime without precedent in El Salvador's history. [Words indistinct] to worsen the country's situation and to exacerbate passions to make peace increasingly difficult.

I hope that my brothers, all the Salvadorans who believe in Christ, may learn to value life as a precious gift from God, may learn to respect life, to respect other people's opinions, and to love others in spite of differences.

I also hope that this painful situation we have endured for the past 10 years will make us more aware of our duties as citizens and Christians. We have the obligation to build a more just society, more deserving of the name the nation has carried since the days of the colony: El Salvador.

I want the Savior to [words indistinct] to calm down this thirst of blood that is [words indistinct] and destroying useful lives, the lives of [words indistinct] and get over this storm [words indistinct] as members of a civilized society, of a Christian society.

[Reporter] Your statement comforts us at this difficult moment. Do you have any recommendation for the Salvadoran people as to what to do at this time?

[Ramos] I recommend to the Salvadoran people to remain calm, and especially to pray. [Words indistinct] the hearts of peace through love for God and the faith we may have.

[Reporter] Do you have any recommendation for the rebels, for the FMLN specifically?

[Ramos] I would ask them to reestablish the dialogue that has been broken. It has been confirmed, since the days when Cain killed his brother Abel, that violence is not the solution to injustice. Violence generates more violence, and, as civilized people, we should resolve our differences through negotiations and dialogue.

Embassy Opens Doors to Priests

PA1611203389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1756 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvdor, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—After the killing of six Jesuit priests today, five of them Spaniards, the Spanish Embassy has told all Spanish clergymen in El Salvador that "the embassy's doors are open" if they fear for their lives.

Spanish Ambasador Francisco Cadiz Deleito visited the house where the clergymen and two other people were machine-gunned by unidentified people this morning. He told ACAN-EFE that "the embassy's doors are open to those clergymen who so desire."

He said that he is in constant touch with the more than 20 Spanish priests who live in El Salvador, and that he had close ties with the murdered priests.

He said that "if they wish to leave the country, we would organize a masss departure," although, he said, he is sure that most of them will want to stay in El Salvador, where they have been working for more than 25 years.

Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Valdivieso accompanied Cadiz Deleito to the residence where the Jesuits and two other people were killed. He said it was a "horrendous murder."

When Valdivieso saw the corpses, most of them with their skulls crushed, scattered throughout the residence's garden, he said that "it is an indescribable disgrace for El Salvador."

According to the Spanish ambassador, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani expressed his condolences for the tragedy when he spoke on the telephone with the deputy foreign minister when the latter was at the Spanish Embassy.

Cadiz Deleito spoke to Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernando Ordonez, who said that "President Felipe Gonzalez and the entire government are very concerned about what happened."

When asked about transferring the bodies to Spain, the ambassador said that only two of the murdered Jesuits are "legally Spaniards" because the others had acquired Salvadoran citizenship many years ago. He added that Jesuit sources had told him that they would probably all be buried in El Salvador "because of their close relationship with the country."

Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Central American University; Segundo Montes; Ignacio Martin Baro; Amando Lopez; Juan Ramon Moreno;, Joaquin Lopez y Lopez; and the housemaid Elba Ramos and her 15-year-old daughter Cristina were killed in the massacre.

FMLN Appeals to Americans

PA1611170489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1520 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Reports from San Salvador confirm that Armed Forces Joint General Staff special forces this morning at dawn entered the residence of Priest Ignacio Ellacuria and machinegunned him as he slept in his bed. Ellacuria, as reported earlier, was rector of the Catholic university.

Also murdered were Priests Martin Baro, Juan Ramon Moreno, Armando Lopez, Segundo Montes, and Joaquin Lopez y Lopez, their cook, and her small daughter. All were machinegunned in their rooms as they slept.

Press agency reports released to the entire world point out that after the priests were machinegunned, an incendiary bomb was hurled into the house. The report adds that the area where the crime was perpetrated had been occupied by the Army. Furthermore , as is well known, a curfew had been established and martial law implemented from 1800 to 0600. The area where the group of priests was machinegunned was controlled by the Armed Forces and only the Armed Forces circulates in that area from 1800 to 0600. In other words, the Joint General Staff's special forces took advantage of the state of siege implemented between 1800 to 0600 throughout El Salvador. They acted with impunity. It was a cowardly crime perpetrated by Colonel Ponce, a crime for which he will pay dearly.

We are also calling upon the American people. We must send a message to the Americans, the sons of George Washington, the sons of Lincoln and Jefferson. We must address the American people who, with their taxes, are maintaining this military dictatorship in El Salvador. We must raise the consciousness of the American people who, with their taxes, are paying for the American bombs which at this moment are being dropped on neighborhoods and residential areas in Salvadoran cities.

We must ask the American people to mobilize immediately. There is no time to lose. Women and children in El Salvador are being murdered with American bombs and airplanes. This is not a struggle, as the regime and the Bush Administration claim, between communism and the Christian western world—to use the Bush administration's own words. It is a struggle against the death squads, against Monseignor Romero's murderers, it is a struggle by the Salvadoran people who have every right to have the government they want, the system they want.

It is our people's and the political parties' resolve to reach an agreement, to establish a sole national plan, a popular government formed by all the sectors in the nation, and to make El Salvador a democratic country, with a democracy of schools, health, bread, and land for peasants. Therefore, at this hour when Salvadoran priests have been murdered by the Armed Forces Joint General Staff's special forces following orders from Colonel Ponce and from the military dictatorship that has been established in El Salvador since 11 November, the Armed Forces have removed their civilian mask.

People of the United States, we urge you to mobilize. Sons of Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln, you must mobilize in the United States so that not another bomb will be dropped on Salvadoran children. We invite the American people to look at the scenes on television where U.S.-made A-37 airplanes can be seen dropping bombs on defenseless children and women. Identify in those bombs the dollars that you pay in taxes. Do not be accomplices of the genocide. The taxes you pay to the U.S. Government are turning into complicity. That is why you—American people—must reflect, mobilize, and ask your government to stop supporting the death squads and Msgr Romero's assassins.

This is an urgent message from the Salvadoran people to the United States.

Ellacuria Interview

PA1611175389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1551 GMT 16 Nov 89

[By Andreu Claret]

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Ignacio Ellacuria, the rector of the Central American University [UCA] who was murdered early this morning in San Salvador along with seven other persons, told ACAN-EFE earlier this week in an unpublished interview that Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani "is as sincere as he is naive." During the interview, which took place on 12 November on a flight from Madrid shortly after the Salvadoran guerrillas had launched their military offensive, Ellacuria said that "Cristiani knows where the violence by the death squads is coming from, but there is nothing he can do about it."

Commenting on the murder of 10 union members on 31 October, the 59-year-old Spanish Jesuit priest said: "It is the killings perpetrated by the extreme right against Cristiani that the FMLN (the guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) will have to respond to."

Ellacuria was returning from Germany, where he had held talks with all of the parties in that country's parliament. He said: "There are three groups within ARENA (the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance party). Cristiani's civilist wing, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson's militarist wing, and the wing run by the squads." Ellacuria did not link this third wing to any name in particular.

Claiming that D'Aubuisson has changed, Ellacuria said: "D'Aubuisson, who came to realize that the party had to become more moderate if it wanted to reach power, is no longer responsible for the death squads."

Ellacuria went so far as to say that "there are people in ARENA who are beginning to believe that El Salvador's main problem is abject poverty and not communism," and again referred to changes in ARENA leaders who, like D'Aubuisson, were linked in the past to violent murders such as the murder of San Salvador Archbishop Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

The UCA rector who at the time of the interview had only sparse information on the beginning of the FMLN offensive, said that "the murder of the union members is a very serious incident because it hinders the possibility of former guerrillas rejoining civilian life in El Salvador if the war were to come to an end and peace were to come to El Salvador."

The Spanish Jesuit priest was critical of the FMLN, "who continues to believe that an insurrection is possible. We (the Jesuits who run the UCA) have been telling the FMLN for a long time that there is no possibility for an insurrection."

In the lengthy conversation regarding El Salvador's political future, Ellacuria said that he had met recently FMLN "commanders" and that he had told them that "it is necessary to think about winning over the masses," and that "this requires moderation."

According to Ellacuria, Cuban leader Fidel Castro—who maintains a close relationship with the FMLN leaders—"helped to moderate the guerrillas until perestroyka occurred."

"It is possible that things are different now," he added, "because now the Cubans do not want to face perestroyka by themselves."

Ellacuria blamed the U.S. administration for the situation in El Salvador, and said that "if the United States were to negotiate the reestablishment of relations with Cuba and to change its position on Nicaragua, this would contribute significantly to the pacification of El Salvador."

Further Reportage on Armed Forces-Rebel Clashes

Army Claiming Victory

PA1611151989 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1338 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Brave, proud, noble people of El Salvador, at this time you are developing a campaign of national redemption. Salvadoran people, your Armed Forces are with you. Your Armed Forces are defending you. Salvadoran people, this is the decisive moment, the moment of great victory for the Salvadoran people's democracy and freedom.

Compatriots, at this decisive moment in our country's history, each Salvadoran must become a soldier of the fatherland. Each of us, each Salvadoran, is a soldier of the fatherland. Wherever you are, Salvadoran, you are from that trench confronting the Marxist hordes of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. Your Armed Forces are working hard and repelling the terrorist aggression of the criminal FMLN.

The time has come to give those traitors what they deserve. Those traitors and assasins in the FMLN are now running, they are running like true cowards because they are cowards. In a cowardly manner they attacked our people; however, the Armed Forces, with their professional capabilities, patriotic integrity, and the Salvadoran people's unity, have defeated the Marxist-Leninist aggression by the terrorist FMLN.

FMLN Appeals to Army Members

PA1611165789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1302 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Salvadoran people, now is the time to rebel; Salvadoran people, now is the time to obtain weapons. We urge the working class not to go to work and to stay in the neighborhoods and housing areas to defend the homeland and El Salvador against this invading Army—because it is an invading Army. See how it acts: U.S.-made airplanes, helicopters, and tanks are led, directed, and financed by the U.S. Administration. The bombings are proving to all the people that this is an occupation Army, not a national Army. A national Army does not bomb its own people; an Army that defends the blue and white flag of our nation cannot bomb San Miguel like this Army is doing. A whole neighborhood has been ravaged by the 500-lb bombs upon instructions from Colonel Mauricio Vargas.

Cuscatancingo has been indiscriminately bombed; Zacamil has been indiscriminately bombed; the same goes for Ciudad Delgado, Bosques del Rio, and every other area of the capital. The Army has bombed these areas indiscriminately during the day and night. The bombing carried out early this morning in the northern area of the capital is a sign of desperation, but it is also a sign of the madness which afflicts those who profited from the war and can go to Miami because they have mansions. However, you, soldier, and you, officer, do not have a helicopter or an airplane to flee to Miami.

Patriotic soldier, patriotic officer, we invite you to think about what we are telling you. You have been told that you are a member of a patriotic National Army that defends the nation's sovereignty. How can this be a National Army if it has indiscriminately assassinated thousands of Salvadorans. You know what a night bombing does in a city with a population of 1 million. Patriotic officer, we invite you to reflect on this: The capital is being destroyed.

General Juan Rafael Bustillo, Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce have profited from the war and they are protecting their own interests. Ponce is protecting his mansions in the countryside where he travels every weekend in helicopter and enjoys himself amid luxurious surroundings—while you officers are losing your arms and legs on the battlefield and your lives in the capital. You know that captains and lieutenants have died; you know

their names; you know what the situation is; you know the amount of casualties sustained by the National Police, the Atlacatl Battalion, and the Belloso Battalion. Ask in the military hospital how many casualties there are; ask in the Armed Forces' funeral home how many hundreds of soldiers's corpses have been brought in.

Thus, patriotic officer, now is the time to reflect. That cannot be a National Army because, we repeat, a National Army does not behave like an occupation Army. Col Ponce's behavior follows Roberto D'Aubuisson's guidelines. He is behaving like they behaved toward the Honduran people, bombing civilians during the 1969 war. They are capturing civilians and assassinating them on the streets simply because they have been found on the streets and they look suspicious. The Army is currently assassinating women and children. The patrols are assassinating civilians in the capital day and night because whoever wears civilians clothes right now represents an enemy to the Army.

Soldier, we invite you to dress yourself with dignity; dress yourself as a civilian; join our people; desert; take off that uniform and dress as a civilian; and abandon the patrols. You can do it anytime. You can go to the countryside or simply come to where our forces are located. New forces entered the capital last night. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front is getting stronger in the capital. New guerrilla columns arrived in the capital last evening [words indistinct] fresh troops. We have everything needed to win. We have our people so, officer and patriot, we call you comrade because you are a Salvadoran; we call you comrade because you can become our comrade in arms.

Patriotic soldier, let us stop the destruction of San Salvador. Look out your window at the barracks and see the criminal way the Air Force is dropping bombs on places where your family may be and you cannot go and help them because you are restricted to our quarters. Look out your window and you will realize that yours is an occupation Army, a foreign Army with weapons sent by the U.S. imperialists, sent by the North Americans who could not care less if our beautiful capital is destroyed. The orders are coming from Washington and the most stubborn groups in the Pentagon, and the capital is being destroyed.

Think about this officer: Would you be able to issue the order to bomb the capital if you had to? No, no, you would not. No one has asked you if you agree with those bombings. Patriotic officer, Col Ponce's orders come from abroad. The orders are being sent by the U.S. Pentagon; the orders are being sent by the U.S. Southern Command in Panama. The orders come from abroad, and they could not care less if our capital is destroyed. Therefore, patriotic officers who are listening to us right now, act now with your platoon and your company. Rebel and join the people bringing your weapons, ammunition, and vehicles. We are waiting for you in these zones under our control. Use a white flag or call us or we will call you. Let us communicate. Send civilian messengers with notes saying where you will join us and how many soldiers you will bring.

Let us come to an agreement. We will think of the way to do it but we must do it now. The capital is being destroyed by the Air Force. They are not bombing the FMLN. Officer, you know that we have survived and we have multiplied in 10 years despite the Air Force's presence in the battlefields. We have been able to evade the Air Force in Llano del Muerto, even in unprotected zones which have no rocks or trees. The bombings are not aimed against the FMLN, only against the civilian population so that it does not rise against the government. This same tactic was used by d'Aubuisson. First they used Cherokees and now they use bombs. It is the same genocidal tactic.

However, the people are getting angrier by the minute. The bombings have left many orphans. Do you know how they will fight against the Armed Forces? Fifteen-year-old and 16-year-old youths have seen their parents die during the Air Force's bombings. Do you know what strength, energy, and deep hate they will have when fighting against a foreign, genocidal, and anti-national Armed Forces? More and more people are joining us. Every bomb which falls on the neighborhoods and housing areas in San Salvador represents 10 or 20 youths who make a decision because they realize that they must fight to survive and that we will defend our homeland.

Therefore, let us defend San Salvador from total destruction, patriotic officer. We issue this appeal from the bottom of our hearts. We have officers with us. You know them. We have officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers who once comprised the Armed Forces and are now commanders in our revolutionary Army. We appeal to you, patriotic officer. Time is running out.

ACAN Summarizes Situation

PA1611192489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1736 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Thousands of Salvadorans continued their exodus today from neighborhoods in the capital's northwest area, where fierce fighting is under way between the Army and the guerrillas for the 6th consecutive day.

Men, women, and children, trapped since 11 November in neighborhoods in northwest San Salvador where the guerrilla offensive began, are walking in the streets with children in their arms, their few belongings in bags and waving white flags.

Residents of Zacamil, Mejicanos, and Ayutuxtepeque wander about in the streets. Many of them are going to shelters opened by Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, and Episcopal churches in San Salvador, where they are given food and medicines.

Meanwhile, the Zacamil, Mejicanos, and Cuscatancingo areas are the scene of fierce fighting in a new Salvadoran

Army attempt to dislodge the guerrillas from buildings in these populous neighborhoods of the Salvadoran capital.

An ACAN-EFE correspondent has confirmed the bloody clahses between the government and the guerrillas. The Army is using the Air Force, and the soldiers are firing high-caliber weapons. These troops maintain they have surrounded the rebels.

Meanwhile, the guerrillas entrenched in high-rise low-income buildings have opened up heavy fire on the Army advance.

At least two communities where very poor people live, most of them in huts in Zacamil, have been burning since last night.

According to witnesses, the fire is caused by the intense confrontations between the Army and the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, religious and political leaders have asked the government to agree on a truce, suspend the firing, and resume the dialogue and the negotiations to permit a peaceful solution to the Salvadoran armed conflict.

Carrying white flags and a few belongings that they were able to rescue between clashes, the inhabitants of Zacamil are wandering about the streets of San Salvador, leaving behind the smoking buildings set on fire by the bombings, inhabitants reported.

Gregorio Rosa Chavez, San Salvador's auxiliary bishop, has said that the church has opened private schools to receive the thousands of people left homeless by the fighting.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) began its biggest offensive of the past 10 years 5 days ago. This offensive has resulted in thousands of casualties, including soldiers, rebels, and civilians.

The Lutheran, Episcopal, and Baptist Churches have opened their main churches in San Salvador and its outskirts to lodge refugees, and have asked the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas to respect their "sanctuaries." In these places, food and medicines are being handed out to the homeless, and first aid is given to wounded soldiers.

The Salvadoran Air Force carried out its biggest offensive last night with spectacular air raids aimed at Zacamil and Mejicanos. Facundo Guardado, an FMLN leader, was interviewed in one of these places. Meanwhile, the government radio network has reported that Ferman Cienfuegos, one of the top five guerrilla leaders, was seen in Zacamil.

Foreign Troops Reportedly Arrive

LD1611195589 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1920 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A spokesman in Madrid for Radio Venceremos,the Salvadoran rebels' radio, has just told RNE's [Spanish National Radio] newsroom that troops from Guatemala and Honduras have crossed the borders in support of the Salvadoran Army to put down the guerrillas. This is news from Radio Venceremos here in Madrid which, in any case, we will try to confirm in subsequent RNE news bulletins. [passage omitted]

FMLN on Army Attack on Zacamil

PA1611200789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1850 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Attention, attention, the Armed Forces' counter-attack on our positions in Zacamil has failed. Attention, at this time Radio Venceremos proclaims that the new Armed Forces' counteroffensive to attack our positions in Zacamil has failed.

A report sent by comrades Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo and Carlos Argueta indicate that the enemy attempt to take our positions in Zacamil failed.

At 0400 today, an important battle was fought in Zacamil. Combined troops of the Belloso and Bracamonte Battalions, and a cavalry unit, with the support of one helicopter and one or two light planes, tried to attack our fortified positions. However, this attempt ended in a resounding failure. The enemy sustained 45 casualties in the attack, which lasted from 0400 until 1100. These casualties, which have been confirmed, included a section chief. In addition, our forces destroyed one armored vehicle and damaged another. We also have a Belloso Battalion patrol trapped in one of the buildings. Some members of this patrol were wounded, others were killed in action.

In its desperation, the Army has used the Air Force for its indiscriminate attacks.

This is a last-minute report we have from San Salvador: The enemy counterattack failed in Zacamil. By noon, our forces had controlled this attack. The situation in San Salvador is becoming more critical for the general staff with the fall of the Cuscatancingo garrison, where our forces seized thousands of items of military supplies and ammunition.

Curfew Restrictions Emphasized

PA1611210689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1939 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Attention, attention: The national network believes it is necessary to clearly explain to the citizenry in general what a curfew entails, given that many civilians have had problems with the authorities for going from one place to another during forbidden hours.

A curfew means that no civilian can go out or participate in meetings, [word indistinct], and sessions of any kind between 1800 and 0600. Citizens are absolutely forbidden from going out in the streets between 1800 and 0600. If there are still any doubts, please consult the national radio network for peace in El Salvador.

Army: Rebel Weapons From Nicaragua

PA1611215689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1918 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] In countering the vandalistic actions of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in San Salvador's Metropolis neighborhood, the rapid reaction Ramon Belloso Battalion has seized many terrorist weapons, all of them coming from Ortega and Nicaragua's Sandinists, including: 230 rounds for RPG-7 rocket launchers, 5 grenades for 40-mm [grenade launchers], 20 grenades for RPG-7 rocket launchers, 14 Soviet grenades, 29 Israeli grenades, 10 M-67 grenades, 43 Hungarian grenades, 16 U.S. grenades, 100 clips for AK-47 rifles, 10 (BKL) heavy machineguns without numbers, 12 cannons for (BKL) machineguns, 40 plugs for Hungarian grenades, 2,000 cartridges for M-16 rifles, 1,500 cartridges for Dragunov rifles, 5,575 cartridges for AK-47 rifles, and 63 manuals for urban commandos, numbers 2 and 3.

This intervention by the Sandinist government is being condemned by all the Salvadoran people. These courageous people are asking the international community to repudiate the ill-fated Sandinist intervention of dictator Daniel Ortega.

FMLN: U.S. Pilots on Bombing Missions

PA1611232289 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador 2230 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in El Salvador on 16 November—read by announcer]

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] General Command reports the following to the Salvadoran people and international community:

1. It was learned through military intelligence sources that there were discussions between U.S. Pentagon advisers and the Salvadoran Armed Forces General Staff on the ineffectiveness of Salvadoran Air Force pilots.

2. As a result of these assessments, on 13 November U.S. combat pilots arrived at Ilopango Air Force Base from Honduras.

3. In the past 48 hours these U.S. pilots have been carrying out the bombing missions in San Salvador. Night bombings are carried out exclusively by these Yankee pilots, and they are directly responsible for the extensive damage inflicted on the civilian population.

4. On 15 November, [word indistinct] company troops from Guatemala arrived in our country as a result of pressure by the Bush administration to get regional armies to intervene in the Salvadoran war.

The FMLN believes that these are very serious developments that could lead to the expansion of the Salvadoran conflict to the rest of the region. We call on the international community, and particularly on the U.S. public, to denounce to the world the escalation of the Bush administration's meddling in El Salvador. We warn the international community about the danger of this escalation and that we will not be the ones responsible for the deaths of North Americans in our fatherland. We call on Central America's presidents to become aware that this U.S. intervention harms the Esquipulas and Tela accords and constitutes a direct attack on the region's process of democratization and peace.

[Signed] FMLN General Command—Commanders Francisco Jovel, Joaquin Villalobos, Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Eduardo Sancho, and Jorge Shafik Handal

El Salvador, 16 November 1989

Citizens Asked To Leave Homes

PA1611235289 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2253 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Attention. Pay close attention. Zacamil, Cuscatancingo, and Soyapango residents: It is recommended that you leave your homes immediately to keep the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists from using them as places where they can shield themselves from the victorious advances of our Armed Forces.

The Catholic Church has offered the following places to be used as refuges: Buen Samaritano School is ready to accept Santa Marta residents, and San Roque Parish—we correct ourselves, it is the Jesus Obrero Parochial School—is also open. Refuge can also be taken at the following schools: San Jose Boarding School, Sagrado Corazon, and La Asuncion.

This urgent call is made primarily for families whose houses are close to the last terrorist pockets located in the places mentioned. We do all this for the safety of you and your family. We ask you to come out with white flags and your hands up high. Together—government, people, and Armed Forces—we advance toward peace.

FLMN Commander: Army at 'Stalemate'

PA1711001189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2256 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Commander Facundo Guardado, one of the founders of the Salvadoran guerrilla movement in the last decade, today said that the Army's counteroffensive in San Salvador "is at a stalemate," while the "rebels are advancing."

Guardado, wearing an olive green uniform, told the press that the guerrilla offensive, which began on 11 November, surprised the Armed Forces and the United States, which has "motivated warmongering sectors in this country to continue repression."

The guerrilla leader, known as "Esteban," said: "We are willing to negotiate a political solution to the war with the government from here [San Salvador], while we continue to hold these territories (in San Salvador)." He added: "We would have to ask Army chiefs if these are the so-called undelimited border areas bordering Honduras."

The Salvadoran Army has repeatedly charged the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) with seeking refuge in "undelimited border areas" in dispute with Honduras.

Guardado was interviewed near a clinic in northern San Salvador. He was surrounded by people who complained to the press of the Salvadoran Air Force's "indiscriminate" bombings.

"We have been forced to leave our homes. We do not know what to do. We ask you (the press) to report that the Air Force is bombing these neighborhoods," said a man who was carrying a white flag and saying good-bye to his neighbors.

The guerrillas presented to the press two soldiers who were detained on 15 November as soldiers tried to expel rebels from Mejicanos, a densely populated neighborhood in San Salvador. The soldiers, approximately 25 years old, identified themselves as Jose Francisco Ramirez and Santos Lopez. "We were captured yesterday. We were treated well and have been fed. We do not consider ourselves prisoners of war," Ramirez said. Lopez said he had entered the Mejicanos area with 45 other soldiers, but "all of them left."

EFE Reports 6th Day of Fighting

PA1611235489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2146 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Nov (EFE)—The fighting between the Salvadoran Army and the guerrillas and the constant Air Force bombings of populated areas continued for the 6th consecutive day today, while thousands of civilians fled from the main areas of fighting.

In San Salvador, especially in northwestern neighborhoods, EFE reporters were able to confirm the persistent clashes and continuous launching of rockets by Air Force push-pull aircraft against the rebel positions in densely populated areas.

At least two blocks of homes in the low-income Zacamil neighborhood have been ablaze since mid-morning as a result of the rebel offensive launched on Saturday, which has left more than 600 dead and 1,000 wounded.

The neighborhoods of Zacamil, Mejicanos, Ayutuxtepeque, and Cuscatancingo are the principal areas of fighting in the Salvadoran capital where, according to Army sources, the military have "laid siege to the rebels and will evict them in a few hours."

The Salvadoran Army, supported by aircraft and artillery, are attacking these neighborhoods, where approximately 300,000 persons live and where the guerrillas have taken up positions.

For their part, spokesmen for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) entrenched in buildings and behind barricades in densely populated neighborhoods claim that they "will not retreat" and that "they have consolidated their positions in the capital and other cities of the country."

According to the FMLN, fighting is under way in at least 7 of the 24 departments of El Salvador, while the fiercest clashes are taking place in Usulutan, La Paz, San Miguel, and Morazan in the eastern part of the country.

Independent civilian sources reported that in the country's eastern San Miguel Department the guerrillas have occupied positions in various neighborhoods, which are under heavy air and artillery fire.

However, the Army and the government claim that the situation is under control throughout the country, and that "there are guerrilla redoubts" only in San Salvador.

Meanwhile, thousands of residents in neighborhoods where clashes are taking place are seen running terrified through the streets of San Salvador seeking places of refuge. Thousands of people—men and women with children in their arms—can be seen carrying a few belongings and holding white flags as they walk to shelters opened by various churches, where they receive food and medicine.

The precarious situation of thousands of Salvadorans "is very [words indistinct] thousands of refugees. The exodus of Salvadorans has grown even more in view of the strict security measures implemented throughout the country, such as the state of siege and the 24-hour curfew enforced in the departments where clashes are taking place and a 12-hour curfew in the rest of the country.

So far we have not been able to obtain information on the number of casualties as a result of clashes and the bombings that took place last night and this morning.

The International Red Cross has not been able to enter the neighborhoods where clashes are taking place due to the heavy fighting, and the authorities have rejected a proposal for a temporary truce to evacuate the wounded and permit the burial of bodies still lying in the streets of San Salvador.

Ponce Gives Military Report

PA1711053089 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0334 GMT 17 Nov 89

["Military situation report" given by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at the National Information Center—live or recorded]

[Text] Salvadoran people: After 5 days of combat confronting this armed aggression by the FMLN [Farabundo

Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists, [words indistinct] I want to inform you of the situation throughout the nation:

In the western area, there are no problems. In the eastern area, there are still problems. In San Miguel City, the 3d Infantry Brigade command has been operating in a professional manner, and it has avoided harming the civilian population; therefore, there are terrorists in the [names indistinct] neighborhoods. Also in Usulutan last night and early this morning, [words indistinct] but at present only some explosions and some sporadic firing are being heard in the vicinity of the city of Usulutan. In Zacatecoluca yesterday we managed to control the population completely. We (?dislodged) the terrorists from the 27 September neighborhood.

We have had serious problems in the capital city. The FMLN has waged its greatest efforts here. They are [word indistinct] terrorists, and they should be considered as such. In some neighborhoods in the northern area, the [words indistinct] Mejicanos, [words indistinct] as of Sunday, 12 November. In some [words indistinct] as it was yesterday. Although it is true [words indistinct] of the capital city. In Mejicanos, in the neighborhood, [words indistinct] north of the Guadalupe and Soyapango neighborhoods, [words indistinct] Reparto Santa Marta, and Altos del [word indistinct]. In this area, the Armed Forces have carried out actions to defend the Salvadoran people and to neutralize this genocide [words indistinct].

On the national level, I would like to announce some partial results. The Armed Forces have sustained the following: 177 dead and 251 wounded.

Among the terrorists there are 655 dead and 491 wounded. We have captured 92 FMLN members, and 6 FMLN terrorists have turned themselves in. As for the civilians, we regret that 47 persons have died and 153 have been wounded.

The Armed Forces have seized 324 rifles, 75 grenade and rocket launchers, 26 mortars, 8 machineguns, 15 submachineguns, and 40 weapons of other types from the FMLN terrorists. Four (?arsenals) have also [words indistinct] in Mejicanos, where the terrorists had a considerable quantity of ammunition and explosives.

Salvadoran people: You must have confidence in your Armed Forces and in your government because we are working together. Our commander in chief is up to date on the situation, and [words indistinct], and we are working together. The Armed Forces are working in a very professional manner. You must understand that we cannot resolve this situation by endangering the lives of innocent people. That is why it takes longer for the Armed Forces to do things.

On behalf of the Armed Forces, we want to thank you, our people, for your support, as you have been providing us with plenty of information, supporting our troops in the various combat areas, and—most important of all—condemning and rejecting this terrorist attack. That is the [words indistinct] of the FMLN.

We are all working, struggling to maintain a democratic system, to maintain freedom [word indistinct], and achieve peace. I also want to inform you that after visiting the various areas this afternoon, where we are [word indistinct], the morale of our troops and officers is very high. And there is a reason for this, because they are fighting to defend you.

[Word indistinct] the FMLN terrorists have very low morale, [words indistinct] many, because they are now aware of their casualties and [words indistinct].

I want to avail myself of this opportunity and on behalf of the Armed Forces strongly condemn those who massacred six Jesuit priests this morning. We regret as well the deaths of other civilians, innocent people who have nothing to do with this conflict. We also regret the deaths among our Armed Forces.

It is also important to mention that the government, the people, and the Armed Forces General Command are proud of the professional work being done at the various garrisons of our Armed Forces.

Salvadoran people, on behalf of the Armed Forces, we ask for your support. You must continue going to work and continue working. In conclusion, I want to thank the people once again for their moral and material support of the government and the Armed Forces at such a difficult time.

Red Cross Experiencing Difficulty

PA1611195389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1746 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—A spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (RCIC) has declared that the RCIC has not been able to enter the areas affected by last night's fierce fighting and bombing "because there are no guarantees from the government."

Marie Aude Lude, RCIC spokeswoman in El Salvador, told ACAN-EFE that "we have not received any reply from the authorities regarding our request made on 15 November for a 6-hour truce."

She said that "we cannot operate under those circumstances."

She said that the Salvadoran Red Cross has been active, however. She confirmed that five of its ambulances have been shot at since the fighting between the guerrillas and the Army started in the streets of San Salvador on 11 November.

Three members of the local Red Cross have been wounded in the last 5 days.

Independent observers arriving from the Zacamil and Mejicanos neighborhoods this morning reported that

there were many casualties during last night's fighting. They said that the Air Force continuously machinegunned guerrilla positions in the densely populated areas.

The RCIC has asked the two sides to decree a 6-hour truce to evacuate the wounded and bury the many bodies that are scattered throughout the city. Some corpses are decaying because of the heat during the day in this city.

Cristiani: FMLN Must End Violence for Talks

PA1711005589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2331 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani stated today that his government is willing to continue the dialogue with the guerrillas, but only if they desist from violence and join the democratic process.

"We will not lend ourselves to any game with the guerrillas. While speaking of peace, they prepared this action" (the offensive), Cristiani stated, noting that the rebels "are going to great lengths to try to achieve power through violent means."

"If hostilities do not cease on the part of the guerrillas, there will not be any dialogue. The government will not lend itself to this game," he insisted.

The president stated at a news conference that the Army "has controlled" the national territory, although he admitted that in some places, especially in neighborhoods of the capital, clashes are still taking place with the rebels.

Cristiani stated that Costa Rican President Oscar Arias "is very disturbed and termed the rebels cynical," because while they spoke of peace they were preparing the offensive launched on 11 November.

The president again denied that the Salvadoran Air Force is indiscriminately bombing the civilian population. He said that bombs have been used only twice, the first time in an open field of the University of El Salvador where mortars were positioned, and again last night in the vicinity of the Air Force garrisons.

Cristiani stated that the guerrillas used bombs last night against the Air Force in eastern San Salvador and were repelled by aircraft which dropped bombs.

The president stressed that the Army has not evicted the guerrillas from positions in the northwestern neighborhoods of San Salvador so as "not to affect the civilian population."

He added that France and Guatemala have offered to donate medicine for the thousands of Salvadorans who have had to leave their homes as a result of the intense fighting between the Army and guerrillas since the start of the offensive, which has caused approximately 1,000 deaths.

FMLN Chiefs Reported 'Using Drugs' on Fighters

PA1611132689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0413 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The chiefs of the criminal Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, bands are using drugs to keep active the few comrades they have left, the ones who instigated their failed criminal offensive. The murderous chiefs of the terrorist hoardes, who have brought death and destruction to the suffering people of El Salvador, are being left behind by the many who lured them into San Salvador by getting them to believe in a delusive FMLN victory. Now that they are in disarray and fleeing from the professional actions of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, these chiefs can only resort to drugs in an attempt to keep and encourage the few criminals who are causing terror for the long suffering Salvadoran people in some sectors of the metropolitan zone.

In their desperate and useless resistance to our glorious Armed Forces, the FMLN's murderous chiefs are leading this brutal attack against our people. Their savagery has reached the extreme as they are executing the comrades who refuse to continue fighting and shooting in the head those who are wounded because their situation is totally hopeless. Many young men have been murdered—shot—by the FMLN rifles. Those young men came here to participate in a hopelessly terrorist and bloodthirsty adventure. That is how cruel and merciless the FMLN's criminal murderous communists are. That is why the Salvadoran people, who supported their Armed Forces, defeated the FMLN's terrorist offensive. This woeful and painful page in our history will soon be over thanks to the courage and patriotism of the brave people of El Salvador.

Coprefa Denies Controlling 'Front Groups'

PA1611210089 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 11 Nov 89 p 4

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] On 10 November the Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA] rejected the charges levied against it by some union groups accusing it of controlling front groups which back statements against certain groups linked to the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front].

According to a COPREFA statement, "The COPREFA work policy is chiefly to inform, acting as the voice of the Army and the public security corps, and we strictly adhere to the reports made by the different garrisons on the military situation as well as on other community-minded activities by these same units."

The statement adds: "COPREFA never intends to use the information it reports to the public for propaganda purposes, as some people or political groups want the public to believe.

"On several occasions it has been said that the COPREFA office controls 'front civic committees' exclusively dedicated to propaganda activities, something that is completely false, although that is precisely what a paid advertisement by one group published in an afternoon newspaper said.

"In the face of this situation," the statement adds, "COPREFA, as a source of information serving local and international news media and acting in all seriousness as an official institution, invites people who are interested in political matters and who wish to know how this office really works to visit the premises and meet the people.

"In addition, COPREFA appeals for calm so that as Salvadorans we will act within the law and refrain from making unfounded statements without genuine proof. COPREFA reiterates that its work is totally objective and is based on the reports from all the garrisons located all over the country," the official statement ends.

Zamora's MPSC Requests Bombing Suspension

PA1611033689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0219 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Nov (AFP)—The opposition Social Christian People's Movement (MPSC) of El Salvador asked the Armed Forces today to "suspend the bombing of the civilian population," and it reported on the kidnapping of a local radio station newsman by the Army.

The MPSC, headed by Ruben Zamora, said that the "poorest people in the Salvadoran capital have been the victims of bombings and machine gun fire by the Air Force" during the guerrilla offensive initiated on Saturday, the largest offensive by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) since the civil war began 9 years ago.

The political organization stated in a communique that newsman Rene Hurtado from Radio Cadena YSKL was captured by the Armed Forces, but it did not specify how he was arrested.

Likewise, it added that the MPSC supports the requests made by democratic political organizations, the Permanent Committee for the National Debate, and the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod to immediately suspend bombings against the civilian population.

The political organization, which is a member of the leftist coalition called Democratic Convergence, stressed the need for an agreement between the Armed Forces, the FMLN, the Salvadoran Government, and the country's political forces to achieve a climate of peace.

Rights Organization Demands End to Bombings

PA1611151289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1758 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Here we have a communique which has been released by the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America [CODEHUCA]. Among other things, CODEHUCA states that during the clashes in El Salvador the Armed Forces bombed densely populated areas near [words indistinct] San Salvador, such as Mejicanos, San Marcos, Soyapango, Ilopango, Sacamira, Ayutuxtepeque, Colonia Laicos and the University of El Salvador campus, all the areas where the poorest people live.

In the past, CODEHUCA adds, the Armed Forces bombed rural areas, but now they have spread their area of action to urban zones. In addition, the Armed Forces have made illegal arrests during the FMLN offensive. The Armed Forces have also increased human rights violations against the people's movement.

CODEHUCA notes that a counterinsurgency policy against the popular sectors has become evident.

CODEHUCA stresses that searches, raids, arbitrary arrests, kidnappings, and disappearances have increased. This policy is directed against the popular, humanitarian, and religious organizations.

CODEHUCA demands that the Cristiani government:

1. Stop the bombings against the civilian population;

2. Humanize the armed conflict and respect the Geneva agreements;

3. Stop the repression against popular organizations;

4. Permit access to bombed areas so that the wounded can be evacuated for medical treatment;

5. Disband the death squads and security apparatus responsible for human rights violations;

6. Lift restrictions on freedom of expression and permit access to information.

CODEHUCA is composed of the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission, the nongovernmental Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras, CODEH, the National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Nicaragua, the Costa Rican Human Rights Commission, the relatives and friends of Costa Rican political prisoners, Panama's Center for Social Training, and the General Union of Belizean Workers.

Monsignor Berates FMLN for Hospital Bombing

PA1611030389 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0111 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Interview with Monsignor Romeo Tobar Astorga, Salvadoran Episcopal Conference president, by unidentified reporter in San Salvador on 15 November—recorded]

[Text] [Tobar Astorga] Yes, we are very worried over the situation caused by the aggression of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] against the Zacatecoluca population. We cannot condone—under any circumstances—an attack against the civilian population just to attain power in the country. The attack against the Zacatecoluca Hospital was very heavy, and I would say that it is unthinkable and unimaginable that such an action was carried out. The FMLN placed a bomb on the fifth floor and made it blow up. This action is unspeakable. They are simply savages. Only persons whose minds are sick due to the Marxist doctrines can cause such an action. Persons who are normal and whose minds are working well would never do this. It has no justification. Nobody in the world could ever justify a bomb being placed in a hospital. We have had to evacuate the doctors and nurses, the sick and ailing, the wounded, and the women who were about to give birth. One really feels great pity when one sees this exodus of people. I do not know when there has been more savagery. When Christopher Columbus discovered America, or now in San Salvador? When have there been more savage actions? It seems to me that at this moment. The Spanish conquistadores never placed a bomb in a health center such as a hospital.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Tobar Astorga] The terrorist entered to murder the soldier in the hospital. Such an action is totally against human rights, and also against the Geneva agreements.

[Reporter] What message do you wish to give the Salvadoran people at this time?

[Tobar Astorga] I want to tell them to have faith and place their confidence in God. We must get closer to God. We must all live in accordance with the holy laws that God dicatated for each and every one of us. If we live our lives according to the dictates of God's law, then we will not only have peace but also justice in our fatherland.

FMLN Establishes Press Center in Panama

PA1611051589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 15 Nov (DPA)—A high-ranking leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), who chose to remain anonymous, has arrived in Panama and has announced the establishment of a press center in Panama City from which to release the war bulletins of that Salvadoran guerrilla movement.

The FMLN member was presented at a meeting held by members of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) and the People's Party (Communist) at the headquarters of the Newsmens Association. He avoided being photographed or filmed by cameramen.

The FMLN leader said that the FMLN reaffirms its decision to maintain all the positions conquered thus far and will now proceed to organize a general uprising of the Salvadoran people.

Rebel Radio on Plan for 'Cover Up' on Union Attack

PA1611005089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Station Commentary: "A Shot That Backfired"]

[Text] Alfredo Cristiani tried to form a commission with persons from the domestic and international world to investigate the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] massacre. His objective was to get someone to cover up his responsibility for this massacre. His attempt, however, to form such a commission was an utter failure since nobody wanted to lend himself to such a game.

Since he was unable to obtain a commission's moral endorsement, Cristiani has had no alternative but to initiate a fake investigation by the inept and [word indistinct] judicial and police systems. To top it off, imperialism has tagged to it, or better said, has placed the FBI at the head of the investigation to give it some sort of credibility among the U.S. public. The United States needs to morally justify the aid it gives the Army.

The presence of the FBI in these investigations confirms the fact that the Salvadoran justice system is unable to carry out the investigation. The investigations have clearly shown that the Army's versions about a bomb manipulated by union members from within the union headquarters was absurd. The little evidence gathered left no doubt that the bomb was placed at the union's entrance by someone from outside the organization.

Therefore, the Army's charges are called in our popular jargon: A shot that backfired. The FBI, of course, did not and will not say who the persons were. The FBI is not here to discover anything but to do the exact opposite. It is here to cover up North American guilt so they can continue to aid this government of death-squad members. However, something is true: The [words indistinct] Cristiani has gotten no one to cover up for him, and the FBI says it cannot conduct an investigation in this country. Furthermore, the U.S. Senate has started to stir and made the National Guard's aid which has already been approved, conditional, upon receiving a report from Bush on the FENASTRAS investigation. This is how things stand: [words indistinct] and the self-attack has been shred to pieces. We do not know how La

Tandona [reference to 1966 graduates of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] and Cristiani are going to extricate themselves from this mess they have gotten themselves into.

Minister Says FMLN 'Kidnapped' Children

PA1511232689 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 29 Oct 89 p 4

[Text] Over 500 children have been kidnapped by the terrorists to turn them into "cannon fodder" of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] groups, Defense Minister General Rafael Humberto Larios has charged.

The military officer said that this sinister maneuver has two purposes: One, the terrorists can send forward an explorer front they can discard in order to measure the capacity of the Army units; and two, the terrorists can exploit the image of the children being killed by the army.

The kidnappers "sort of train" the children in military matters. Most of the children are naive and illiterate, and are then confronted with a professional army.

"This is the same thing as sentencing them to a sure death," the military officer said.

Minister Larios said that according to military statistics, so far this year over 500 peasant children ranging from 10 to 15 years of age have been kidnapped by the terrorists.

"This is a crime that must be made known to the international community, and it must be investigated by the organizations that claim to watch over human rights," he added.

Minister Larios pointed out that the children are taken away from their parents and out of their own homes at gunpoint. They are then taken to improvised training camps, where some "commanders" give them "pep talks" and make them feel like adults by giving them something to smoke and drink. The children are then given rifles and submachineguns—sometimes as tall as they are—and launched into operations which the minors do not have the slightest possibility of surviving.

The minister recalled the recent charges by distressed parents from Morazan, Chalatenango, Cabanas, and San Miguel who are demanding that the army help them find and rescue their children.

Larios was interviewed by EL DIARIO DE HOY during the ceremonies held in San Miguel to mark the 5th anniversary of the Lieutenant Colonel Domingo Monterrosa 3d Infantry Brigade.

Referring to statements made by a 1st Infantry Brigade deserter who was presented abroad by the FMLN-FDR [FMLN-Revolutionary Democratic Front] as a witness of the operations by the phantom "death squads," Larios said that this is a worn-out maneuver by the FMLN-FDR. He added that hopefully the international media will not lend credibility to these statements.

Other sources reported that nine children were kidnapped by FMLN terrorists in Guatajiagua Jurisdiction, Morazan Department, to incorporate them into the subversive ranks, according to the children's parents.

The parents went to Military Detachment No 4 to ask for help in releasing their children, who were kidnapped in Maiguera Abajo Jurisdiction, a military source reported.

The parents said that the FMLN-FDR terrorists came from Honduran territory, attacked at night, beat on their doors, and took their children at gunpoint.

The parents reported that the following children were recently taken by the terrorists: Jesus Lopez Martinez, 13; Juan de la Cruz Portillo, 15; Serafin Alvarez, 16; Bartolome Chicas, 14; Esteban Cruz, 15; Reynaldo Andrade, 10; Rafael Zelaya, 12; Adrian Rivas, 12; and Desiderio Rivas, also 12.

A military spokesman said that "what these criminals seek by arming these peasant children is to blame the Army and say the Army slaughtered the children when they are found dead. The terrorists do not say they are the criminals who arm the children—who do not know how to defend themselves—and then throw them in to fight against a professional army."

Guatemala

Counterinsurgency Experts Sent to El Salvador

PA1611182689 Paris AFP in Spanish 1749 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Nov (AFP)— A government source has disclosed to AFP that approximately 126 Guatemalan Army troops who are experts in counterinsurgency were transferred to El Salvador on 15 November to reinforce the Salvadoran Armed Forces, which have been facing a guerrilla offensive since 12 November.

The source indicated that the 126 Guatemalan soldiers are "Kaibiles" [Army ranger units] troops trained by the Israeli Army in the 1970s, considered the best-trained elite soldiers in Central America.

Medical Care for Salvadoran War Wounded Offered

PA1611235789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2251 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Nov (ACAN - EFE)— Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today offered his Salvadoran colleague Alfredo Cristiani the use of Guatemalan hospitals located in the border region between the two countries to take care of the wounded in the war in El Salvador.

Government spokesperson Claudia Arenas told ACAN - EFE that Guatemala is ready to provide humanitarian assistance in the hospitals, especially in trauma cases, which is what is most needed in El Salvador.

Arenas stated that the hospitals of Jutiapa and Cuilapa near the border have been placed on a state of alert and will receive more personnel in the coming hours, in the event El Salvador accepts the offer.

According to the Health Ministry, Salvadoran medical authorities have advised them that the Salvadoran hospitals are filled with persons wounded in the war who "cannot be treated properly because of a lack of resources."

Arenas said that, if necessary, they could even send doctors and paramedic personnel to El Salvador.

Acting Minister Discusses Salvadoran Crisis

PA1611185889 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Julio Martini Herrera has said that the Guatemalan Government resolutely maintains its position of active neutrality regarding El Salvador. The official said that active neutrality means one cannot intervene in the internal affairs of a country, but is indeed obliged to make every necessary diplomatic effort to help solve such conflicts.

The Foreign Ministry is constantly in touch with the Salvadoran authorities to determine the real situation there, Martini said. We support the Cristiani administration, he said, and added that President Cerezo has told Cristiani this himself, at this difficult time in his country's life.

The acting foreign minister told reporters that it should be clear that the government does not at any time support irregular movements, which is the case of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, because it is trying to attain power through violence.

Security Forces Increase Surveillance

PA1611193389 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Surveillance has been stepped up since 15 November.

As reported by the Interior Ministry, the security forces have stepped up surveillance since 15 November to maintain control over certain terrorist activity. It was reported that security has been tightened, especially at the headquarters of the country's political organizations.

Reporters have learned that the security forces have launched an investigation into who is trying to create a climate of instability through terrorist actions. Government Minister Carlos Augusto Morales Villatoro said that the groups want to prevent us from holding elections.

Cerezo Says Drugs Threaten American Democracies

PA1711000589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2241 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said today that narcotics trafficking represents a "threat" for Latin American democracies in view of the large amounts of money involved in their actions.

In a news conference hosted at the government palace, Cerezo admitted that in the last 2 years "there have been attempts" to turn Guatemala into an international "bridge" of narcotics trafficking. He reported that the police, together with the security organizations of other countries, seized drugs worth $1 billion in a 6-month period.

The president stated that the problem with narcotics trafficking "is that it can break countries' institutions in view of the amount of money it uses."

Cerezo emphasized that "we are afraid that the traffickers want to turn Guatemala into a bridge. Therefore, we have asked the international community for help in preventing this, because it can corrupt the state institutions."

The president said that "fortunately" in Guatemala there have not been any incidents that could lead to corruption of institutions, but he stated that if this were the case, it would be investigated immediately. Cerezo stressed that state security organizations are increasing their actions to prevent such cases in Guatemala.

Meanwhile, Colonel Geovanni Valerio, chief of the National Police, said in October that "Guatemala has been used as a bridge for narcotics traffickers, and several Guatemalan businessmen who are involved are being sought by the security forces."

Police sources also disclosed that important bosses of the "Medellin Cartel," who escaped from Colombia to Central America, have apparently sought refuge in Guatemala.

The Government of Guatemala has U.S. Government support in fighting this scourge that has affected several Latin American countries. U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala Thomas Frank Strook recently announced his government's decision to wage "a merciless war" on narcotics trafficking in a joint effort with Guatemala.

Business Sector Says Violence Affecting Economy

PA1711001489 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Nov 89 p 18

[Text] In an analysis of the violence during September, the Information Office of the Business Sector (OFISEM) points out that the government has not been able to provide an atmosphere of security for the people so the economy can move in a manner favorable for the country's development.

The statistics on the September violence—taken from the media—show there is a slight improvement in some aspects, but the prevailing situation is of great concern, the businessmen add.

In a comparison of the August and September statistics, OFISEM notes that 142 murders were reported in September, while 126 were reported in August. OFISEM also reports that 17 kidnapping cases were reported in September, against 19 cases in August. As for missing persons, there were 12 reported in September and 19 in August.

The report adds there were 26 cases of assault in September, down from 71 cases in August, while there were 41 criminal attacks in September and 57 in August. Concerning actions by subversive groups, OFISEM adds one such action was reported in September, and 12 in August. Five cases of narcotics trafficking were reported in August, and only one in September.

OFISEM once again urges the authorities to increase their activities to protect the security of the Guatemalans, who deserve to live in peace in an atmosphere that is conducive for Guatemalan progress.

Honduras

Azcona on Salvadoran Crisis, Presidential Summit

PA1611190089 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Report by Danilo Flores and Mayra Lujan in San Pedro Sula on 15 November—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Jose Azcona Hoyo today inaugurated the Mario Catarino Rivas Northwestern Hospital in San Pedro Sula. The cost of this modern regional hospital, 69 million lempiras, has been financed by the Honduran Government, with loans from the Bank for Inter-American Development Bank, BID, and the French Government. The hospital will be subsidized by the sale of its services to the community. The hospital will gradually increase its services; it will initially operate as a maternity and pediatric hospital. President Azcona gave a statement to this newscast:

[Azcona] "Referring to development projects, I believe it will be a long time before another government carries out as many projects as we have. Referring to the honest administration of public finances, I will walk out with my head held high, and the ministers will do likewise. This does not mean that there is no fourth-level, fifth-level, or sixth-category employee who has....[changes thought] I do not know who has issued this criticism or why. If you explain this I will give you the answers."

[Flores] "Engineer, engineer, there is an important issue. You just said in your speech that there are problems in El Salvador and also in Nicaragua; and added that Honduras was trying to help the two countries solve their problems. Are you still in contact with those presidents?

[Azcona] "I talked with President Cristiani this morning. He told me....[changes thought] he explained more or less what the situation is right now, the danger....[corrects himself] the interest in spreading the problem. Hence, my appeal to the Honduran people, particularly the political leaders, to maintain peace because Honduras is a country seemingly blessed by God. We are surrounded by the violence in other countries but in Honduras we have peace, relatively speaking, if you wish, but it is still something.

[Lujan] "Mr President, can you predict what will happen at the summit scheduled to be held in Nicaragua, given the situation currently prevailing in El Salvador?

[Azcona] "I do not know. It will depend on what all the Central American presidents decide. I will have less authority than the other presidents by that time because there will be a president elect in the country. I will attend the summit with the president elect, if he wants me to accompany him, or else I will not attend the summit—because that is what I had pledged."

Armed Forces To Patrol During Election Process

PA1711010389 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 16 Nov 89 p 8

[Official communique issued by the Honduran Armed Forces on 15 November]

[Text] The Public Relations Directorate of the Honduran Armed Forces hereby reports the following to the nation and the international public:

1. Specific instructions were issued today, 15 November, so that the military will continuously patrol the national territory with the purpose of providing protection and security to the citizens and their property, as well as preserving and supporting the legal framework of the electoral process in which the Hondurans will elect their new government authorities.

2. We urge all citizens to carry their personal identification documents, which they must show the military authorities if requested to do so.

3. The Honduran people should see their soldiers in the streets as representative of the Armed Forces' determination to preserve the people's inalienable achievements, which were won by their own effort and will.

4. All Honduran citizens should be fully aware of their duties and rights in the electoral process, and therefore we request their understanding and cooperation in the efforts and actions that the Armed Forces are carrying out in fulfilling their functions as required by the law.

Tegucigalpa, 15 November 1989

Public Relations Directorate of the Honduran Armed Forces

Cuban Delegation Sends Message to Congress

PA1711020789 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 2 Nov 89 p 2

[Message by the visiting Cuban National Assembly delegation to the Honduran Congress and people on 31 October]

[Text] To the Honorable Congress of the Republic of Honduras:

Leaving this fraternal Central American republic, the delegation of the National Assembly of the People's Goverment of Cuba wishes to express its recognition for the many expressions of hospitality and friendship you have provided us.

During our brief but fruitful visit, we have felt the warmth of the Honduran people and of the deputies of the National Congress of the Republic of Honduras. We have felt this warmth during the various interviews, meetings, and visits with the various departments of the country.

During this visit we have also shared in the suffering of the Honduran people, especially of the families who lost their loved ones in the tragic plane accident. We extend our sympathy to them.

The talks and debates that we held show that, above all, Latin America must understand the need for unity—it should prevail for the sake of peace and development—as a factor that will help make our forefathers' dreams of Latin American unity come true.

Bidding farewell to you, we want to express our willingness to continue strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our parliaments and peoples. Once again, we want to express our gratitude for your hospitality, and we assure you we will spare no effort to make these noble objectives a reality.

Delegation from the National Assembly of the People's Government of Cuba

31 October 1989

Peoples' Organizations Committee Issues Statement

PA1711015389 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Nov 89 p 32

[Paid advertisement by the Peoples' Organizations Coordinating Committee, CCOP, and the U.S. Global Exchange: "Statement by the International Conference for Peace and Peoples' Unity"]

[Text] Aware of the high spirit of self-determination, mutual respect, peace, and justice that should exist among our peoples, and at the invitation of the CCOP and the U.S. Global Exchange, representatives from U.S., Canadian, and Honduran organizations met in Tegucigalpa on 3, 4, and 5 November 1989 to hold a "Meeting for the Peoples' Unity" and to consolidate our efforts, unity, and solidarity to achieve peace and justice in Central America.

In that regard, we have issued the following statement to outline our needs and demands as peoples before the Honduran, Central American, and international communities.

The Honduran delegation states:

Peace in Honduras is inseparable from the conditions of justice and self-determination of the Central American peoples that have been obstructed by U.S. military intervention in the area. Attacks on our fraternal neighbors mean more violations of human rights and a worsening of social conditions for Honduras.

Honduras' democratization and development is not compatible with U.S. military occupation, which harms the constitutional principles of Morazan's fatherland and sketches the progressive and forceful premature death of the Honduran people through the ill-named "low intensity conflict."

The 1989 presidential electoral process is perverted by the contras' illegitimate votes, an increase in the violations of human rights, and the direct participation of the Agency for International Development and the U.S. Embassy.

While 14,000 armed contras receive millions of dollars in U.S. aid, move freely in Honduran territory, engage in arms trafficking, displace hundreds of Honduran families, and commit all sorts of misdeeds, several Hondurans remain in jail facing charges for alleged arms trafficking. Consequently, we demand indemnification for the displaced Hondurans from the U.S. Government, and amnesty for political prisoners from the Honduran Government.

We condemn the policy of privatizing state enterprises, the delivery of the economy to multinational companies, the promotion of unemployment, and the destruction of labor organizations.

We declare ourselves against the policies of the International Monetary Fund, which favors the economy of war and reduces social funds for health, housing, and education.

We feel that as a result of the sacking of our resources by multinational companies, the foreign debt is immoral and unpayable.

We advocate an overall and just agrarian reform, since this process has been hampered by the oligarchic landlords and AID, and because the occupation of our territory by foreign troops brings more poverty to peasant families.

We demand a policy of reforestation and a discontinuation of Honduran imports from the United States and Europe of drugs banned in those countries.

We protest the accelerated destruction of our forests by military actions carried out by the contras and U.S. troops.

We protest the conditions of oppression and injustice under which Honduran women live—aggravated by kidnappings, rapes, and the transmission of diseases by foreign troops. We demand respect and full guarantees for the Honduran women's participation in political life.

Respect for the values of ethnic communities being displaced from their land, respect for national identity, and respect for our culture are part of our permanent struggle.

We condemn the miserable conditions of our children and their export to developed countries to be used for transplants of body parts. Therefore, we believe that respect for children's rights should be a priority in government plans.

The North American delegation states:

We, the North American delegates to the International Conference for Peace and Peoples' Unity, support the Honduran and Central American peoples' right to self-determination. There cannot be real democracy without self-determination. There cannot be real peace without justice and respect for human rights. There cannot be equitable economic growth without peace.

We demand that the U.S. Government respect the Esquipulas and Tela Agreements signed by the five Central American presidents. The ill-named humanitarian aid for the contras violates the Geneva Convention, which defines humanitarian aid as aid given impartially by neutral organizations to noncombatants. The support for the contras obstructs their demobilization and consequently contravenes the Esquipulas and Tela Agreements.

We demand that the U.S. Government stop using Honduras as a platform for its military operations and dismantle all its military facilities in Honduran territory. We support the Contadora Group's proposal to ban foreign military bases in Central America.

After meeting with Hondurans affected by the contras and the U.S. military presence, we demand from the U.S. Government indemnification for Hondurans who have been displaced by the contras and by U.S. military bases in Palmerola and other places. Since the U.S. Government has imposed the contras on Honduras, it is responsible for their actions, which include displacing, robbing, raping, and killing Honduran citizens.

We also demand from the U.S. Government indemnification for the ecological destruction caused by U.S. bases and military maneuvers.

We demand that the U.S. Government stop sending aid aimed at strengthening military intervention in Honduras. We demand that the U.S. and Canadian Governments refunnel all their economic aid through nongovernmental Honduran and U.S. organizations that promote a just and ecologically feasible economic development.

U.S. intervention not only affects the Honduran people, but also diverts resources that could be better used in social services and economic progress in the United States and Canada. Poor people in the United States who are homeless, jobless, and have been evicted from their land by farming and banking corporations could benefit from mutual solidarity with the Honduran people.

We demand that the Canadian and U.S. Governments respect the Honduran territorial, economic, and cultural integrity. We strongly support the Hondurans' right to forge their own destiny.

The Honduran and U.S. delegations have reached the following conclusions:

In order to guarantee peace in Central America, it is necessary to dismantle military bases, stop military maneuvers, and demobilize the contras in Honduras, as well as suspend all foreign military assistance in the area.

We advocate support and faithful compliance with the Tela and Esquipulas II Agreements.

We demand respect for human rights, prosecution of those responsible for missing persons, and amnesty for political prisoners in Honduras.

We protest the U.S. interventionist policy in Honduras, which conditions economic and social injustice and harms its culture, sovereignty, and dignity as a nation.

We protest the accelerated ecological destruction from which Honduras is suffering as a result of privatization, obstruction of the agrarian reform, and actions by the multinational companies, the contras, and U.S. troops.

In conclusion, we declare that our permanent task will be strengthening the ties between the U.S., Canadian, and Honduran peoples as a contribution to peace, respect for human rights, and self-determination.

Peoples' Organizations Coordinating Committee (CCOP)

Global Exchange

Nicaragua

Contras, Sandinists Resume Negotiations

PA1711022389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0130 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Washington, 16 Nov (AFP)—The Nicaraguan Government and the anti-Sandinist rebels tonight resumed the peace talks which had been suspended on 16 November because the talks were reportedly at a standstill.

Nicaraguan Vice Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said he had agreed to return to the negotiations table "with optimism,"

after the contras promised before the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) to continue the talks on 17 and 20 November if needed. The CIAV is composed of UN and OAS officials.

Enrique Bermudez, chief of the "contra" delegation, was not very optimistic because of what he termed the "lack of credibility" of the government. However, Bermudez said he had agreed to return to the negotiations "to see if we at least reach an agreement on the cease-fire."

The negotiations were abruptly interrupted on 15 November when the "contras" proposed to suspend the talks for a week and to continue them in Guatemala, which was rejected by the Nicaraguan Government. The resumption of the dialogue, as the two parties recognized, was attained thanks to the efforts of the CIAV.

Managua Archbishop Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo—who on 15 November had announced his decision to return to Nicaragua—rejoined the talks after being reached by the CIAV when he was already in Miami waiting to take a plane to Managua, an OAS source reported.

Ortega Decrees 3-Day Mourning for Slain Priests

PA1611210589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1945 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the Presidency on 16 November; read by Presidential Press and Information Minister Manuel Espinoza Henriquez—live]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government expresses to the Nicaraguan people and the world its indignation over and condemnation of the brutal murder of six priests and two humble workers of the community of Jesuit priests in San Salvador. The peoples of the world, and the Salvadoran people in particular, know full well who is responsible for these crimes. The perpetrators are the same people who murdered Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero and who have slaughtered members of the clergy, journalists, union members, and humble men, women, children, and elderly people, until the number of victims in that fraternal nation now reaches into the tens of thousands.

Consequently, the Nicaraguan Government calls on the Salvadoran Government and Army to put an end to these criminal activities. The Nicaraguan Government, which has been publicizing the genocidal policy of bombing the cities of El Salvador—the response of the Salvadoran Government and Army to the actions undertaken by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] on Saturday 11 November—once again urges the international community to speak out against this and to contribute to efforts to find a solution to the Salvadoran problem through a cease-fire and the initiation of true negotiations by all political and social forces of the country, including the FMLN.

Two of the six murdered priests—Ignacio Ellacuria, Amado Lopez, Juan Ramon Moreno, Segundo Montes, Joaquin Lopez, and Ignacio Martin Baro—were directly linked to the Nicaraguan people through their pastoral and educational work. Father Amando Lopez held the post of rector at the Colegio Centro America and at the Universidad Centro Americana, and Father Moreno once led the Conference of Nicaraguan Clergymen. To express our sharing of the feelings of horror over these brutal murders, and to express solidarity with the religious communities and especially with the order of the Jesuits, who serve people all around the world, the Nicaraguan Government decrees 3 days of mourning throughout the national territory beginning today.

Managua, 16 November 1989, year of the 10th anniversary.

Rights Group Forms To End Salvadoran Violence

PA1611145789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1220 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] The recently created Nicaraguan Committee of Christian Institutions for Peace in El Salvador [Comite Nicaraguense de Instituciones Cristianas por la Paz en El Salvador, CNICPES] has announced its existence with a call to end the genocide against the Salvadoran people. This committee is composed of Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, and American priests and theologists, grass roots Christians, and evangelical pastors from various denominations, including the Baptist Convention.

In its first communique, the committee outlines the Salvadoran people's efforts to solve their 10-year-old conflict, declaring that the fascist forces staging indiscriminate bombings are the same ones that assassinated Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

Reverend Carlos Escortia read a part of the communique issued by the Christian committee.

[Begin Escortia recording] Eight years ago, Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of San Salvador, was murdered. He was a prophet of dialogue and peace. The current government, composed of the people who murdered him, has not allowed a dialogue; neither did Napoleon Duarte's Christian Democracy government.

The Salvadoran people have, in various ways, attempted to solve the conflict. Moses' dramatic situation before the pharaoh has been repeated. The $90 million in aid the United States provided the Salvadoran Army encouraged the Army to place car bombs at labor union headquarters.

In response to the popular insurrection, the government has indiscriminately bombed densely populated urban areas, repressed the civilian population and—totally disregarding the Geneva convention—it has imposed a curfew, a state of siege, gagged the media, and persecuted clergymen and Christian communities.

Ten years ago the same thing happened in Nicaragua. In response to the people's fair demands, Somoza bombed

cities in a genocidal manner. This is why, having suffered bombings, massacres, repression, and human rights violations personally, the institutions and individuals who have signed this document have formed the Nicaraguan Committee of Christian Institutions for Peace in El Salvador to offer moral strength and solidarity by denouncing inhuman attitudes that are a prelude to the day of judgement, and which preclude a healthy brotherly and social coexistence in the name of peace. [end recording]

Cesar Removed From UNO Electoral Committee

PA1611135989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1227 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] A spokesman for Nicaragua's National Opposition Union [UNO] has confirmed the removal of Alfredo Cesar, the former contra leader and current secretary general of the Social Democratic Party, PSD, from UNO's electoral campaign committee.

Cesar's substitution by another member of the PSD came in the wake of an intense campaign against the former member of the contra hierarchy, who is accused of encouraging the contra forces to continue their armed struggle in Nicaragua.

Joaquin Absalon Pastora, one of the UNO's spokesmen, confirmed that the opposition alliance's Political Council resolved by concensus to replace Cesar with Adolfo Jarquin.

On 13 November the media published a letter datelined on 7 November, which Cesar had sent to the contras' military leader Enrique Bermudez asking him to refrain from reaching any agreement whatsoever with the government regarding the contras' demobilization.

Panama

U.S. 'Covert Operation' Against Noriega Reported

PA1711034389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2354 GMT 16 Nov 89

["Alert to Citizens" segment]

[Text] Another act of infamy against our country and people was committed today in the capital of crime: Washington.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] The U.S. Government has begun a covert operation to overthrow General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], according to the U.S. newspaper THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. The daily reported that the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, has been authorized to spend up to $3 million to organize a coup d'etat with military officers and other members of the Panamanian opposition. The use of troops and other high-risk options are being studied for possible inclusion in the operation. The only restriction to the plan is the prohibition of Gen Noriega's murder. [end recording]

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES disclosed the Panama Plan Five, prepared by George Bush with congressional approval, which calls for investing $3 million to bribe traitors who would participate in a new attempt to oust the national and international leader [as heard] Manuel Antonio Noriega from his post as FDP commander, even though he could be killed in the attempt.

Those of us who once believed in the U.S. governmental system never thought that the White House and the U.S. Congress would become centers where crimes, violence, destruction, manipulation, and genocide are planned. Today, U.S. taxpayers are financing such plans in El Salvador, where priests have been murdered as part of the violence sweeping that country.

The authorization for the fifth attempt to deprive our people and Panama of its nationalist leader has already been given to the CIA so that it can carry out its criminal actions.

In view of the situation, we must alert citizens about actions carried out by the United States in our country, which are aimed at paving the way for its crimes and eliminating those of us who are resisting its attempts to dominate and subjugate us so that it need not comply with the canal treaties and can turn our fatherland into a colony that will favor its interests.

We warn the national and international public that the violent and infamous separation of the families of U.S. troops in Panama is aimed at paving the way for an armed incursion which has never been ruled out in the plans of the Reagan-Bush international mafia team.

The alerts on possible terrorist actions seek to cover up their self-sabotage plans in the canal to justify—as Hitler did in Poland—an invasion in Panama, even at the expense of turning our country into another El Salvador, which is slowly bleeding under the shadow of the pseudodemocracy preached by the Christian Democracy backed by the Bush Administration, which has left more than 70,000 victims.

Alert to citizens: The Bush administration has failed in Panama and in the world. American foreign policy has only left destruction, pain, and death behind. Our country's strategic value can be measured by the millions of dollars invested by the United States in the low intensity war, disinformation, lies, calumnies, slander, and bribes to traitors.

Think about this, Panamanians: What would the United States and the world say if the Panamanian National Assembly of Representatives authorized $3 million to overthrow the criminal George Bush, even if it meant that he could be mistakenly killed in the attempt? What would they say if we did the same thing they are doing to us now?

Alert to citizens: Do not let our fatherland be turned into a battlefield because of U.S. funds, which are enough to buy the most expensive consciences. We do not want any

more Giroldis, Sandovals, Tejadas, and others, who gave a price to their lives and were abandoned later on, and whose memories are stained by the same ones who deceived them.

Alert to citizens: Another criminal attack against our country has been discovered on time. We are prepared to face their colonialist plans aimed at imposing a puppet government that will respond to their interests in order to legitimize the violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Alert to citizens: If they take that step, they will find a patriotic and dignified people who will face their act of infamy with the same weapons with which the peoples of Vietnam and Afghanistan got rid of their oppressors!

Not one step backward! For Panama, our lives!

Church Condemns Murder of Salvadoran Priests

PA1611223589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1645 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Panama's Archbishop Marcos McGrath, Panama's Episcopal Conference President Jose Luis Lacunza, and Panamanian Abdiel Adames, president of the Central American Higher University Council (CSUCA), have condemned the assassination of six Jesuits in El Salvador at dawn today.

McGrath, who described the multiple assassination as "monstrous," pointed out that "it is everybody's duty, especially of that country's government, to identify, arrest, and try the culprits and those who ordered the action."

This "must not only be a just trial of them, but also a means to eloquently express the rejection of the entire society, which calls itself Christian, against such a cruel and unjust crime that reveals absolute contempt for human life," a communique signed by Archbishop McGrath states.

According to sources from El Salvador's Jesuit Curia, the Spanish Jesuit Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of El Salvador's Central American University (UCA), five other priests, and two Salvadoran women were murdered at dawn today by men wearing military uniforms.

In the opinion of Spanish Bishop Jose Luis Lacunza, secretary of Panama's Episcopal Conference and rector of Santa Maria la Antigua University, "these assassinations were perpetrated with malice and in cold blood." They are certainly to be condemned, regardless of who carried them out," he added.

CSUCA President Panamanian Abdiel Adames described as "abominable" and "reprehensible" the assassination of six priests and two women.

Adames, who is also rector of Panama's National University, rejected the escalation of violence "as a means to reach agreements in El Salvador, especially now that priests have been killed."

CSUCA will ask the Salvadoran Government to declare UCA a "sanctuary" or "neutral zone" to treat those wounded in the clashes between the Army and guerrillas that have taken place since 11 November in San Salvador and other towns, Adames pointed out.

CSUCA Coordinator and Salvadoran Guillermo Galvan said today in San Jose (Costa Rica) that he asked President Oscar Arias to "mediate to bring about a solution to the Salvadoran conflict and step up efforts to prevent 'massacres' and 'selective murders.'"

Southern Command Initiates Civilian Evacuations

PA1611193889 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Nov 89 pp 1, B-6

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] It has been officially announced that beginning today the U.S. Army will begin evacuating all if its assigned dependent civilian personnel or those with relatives in the Southern Command to reduce alleged "risks" and to increase the maneuverability of its military personnel.

The mobilization, which the U.S. Army's Southern Command has identified as "expeditious," was adopted by the Pentagon at the end of October after Southern Command chief General Maxwell Thurman proposed it.

The United States, which has approximately 12,000 soldiers at bases established on Panama's Pacific and Atlantic coasts, in May 1989 initiated approximately 25 military exercises, carrying them out even in civilian territory in Panama City and on its outskirts.

Panama has protested the exercises, describing them as violations of the Torrijos-Carter canal treaties and "acts of intimidation and psychological warfare."

Approximately 3,500 civilians will be mobilized within the vast evacuation plan which, in diplomatic circles, has been described as part of the "psychological warfare" by American strategists against the current Panamanian administration.

Gen Maxwell Thurman, who took up his post on 1 October, told Canal Administrator Dennis P. McCauliffe, in a memorandum published 15 November, that only 500 military families will remain in the country as of May 1990.

The plan, which establishes the "length" or deadline for military personnel to remain in Panama with or without their families, will reduce the tours of duty of rotating personnel from 24 to 20 months and from 12 to 10 months.

However, Thurman gave assurances that the services allowed in the treaties, such as commissaries, small stores, and Gorgas Hospital, will be utilized.

Meanwhile, Southern Command spokesman William Omsbeeck has confirmed the presence of five U.S. Army warships at Rodman Naval Station, amid rumors within [Panamanian] Government circles regarding the possibility of the United States taking military action in El Salvador.

Omsbeeck denied the report, but said that two destroyers, one frigate, one submarine, and one landing craft are stationed at Rodman after a 4-month tour of duty in South America.

Also at the U.S. base are two Colombian Army frigates, which arrived with the U.S. fleet.

The Southern Command is a U.S. Army elite military team that designs U.S. "national security" policies from the Rio Grande in Mexico to Patagonia in Argentina.

The Panamanian army has declared the Southern Command's presence in Panama illegal, and has accused the command on various occasions of being a threat to Latin America.

Foreign Minister's OAS Speech Critical of U.S.

PA1711050489 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0008 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Address by Foreign Minister Leonardo Kam before the OAS in Washington on 16 November—recorded]

[Text] Delegates, allow me first to sincerely congratulate Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras for his election to preside over this period of sessions. We are determined to help ensure that this meeting affords a forum for debate and contsructive consensus on the main issues on the regional agenda.

The world is experiencing swift and profound changes and is facing crucial junctures and new challenges. It seems like great dangers have dissipated, but even more dangerous and complex dangers, such as the economic deprivations facing a large part of the world population, are emerging.

Complete international peace and security will exist only if there is a foundation of true justice and international cooperation, and not of domination of certain nations by others or the subjugation of certain social classes by others. Participation and integration seem to be essential concepts and practices that could ensure that humanity will reach the 3d millenium with possibilities of enjoying progress and stability.

In this assembly, we had the honor to see Canada's incorporation into the OAS and the acceptance of Belize as a permanent observer. This is a reflection of the new times in which we live.

At the regional level, we must overcome the old domination schemes and integrate all nations on the continent without reservation, discrimination, or any kind of conditions. This would efficiently help strengthen the main purpose of this organization as a forum for inter-American cooperation.

Its operation and efficiency would be guaranteed only if it serves the interests of progress and justice of all its members, and not the interests of a minority that has tried to use it for hegemonical purposes.

America, the continent of hope, is increasingly becoming a continent marked by societies united by despair and fear. It is not appropriate, legal, or humane for political leaders throughout the continent to not yet firmly and actively understand that not only must important decisions be made, but profound transformations demanded by the current situation in all areas of the region.

There is an urgent need for a new development model that will truly guarantee social and economic improvements and that will bring about sharing and distribution of wealth as opposed to concentration of economic power in a few countries and with a small group of privileged people.

The concentration of economic power in the hands of a few denies the right to life of others and creates social and political conflicts that, in practice, depart from the rigid ideological schemes of a formal democracy.

For democracy to take root in Latin America, it must focus attention on solving our people's social needs. Internationally speaking, it is difficult to face the insensitivity of the powerful in the face of economic inequality in the region.

Wealth should not justify arrogance. Quite the opposite. It must open the way for just cooperation within the fraternal framework of solidarity, and this is not achieved through imposition but through respect for the people's right to self-determination and dignity. The foreign debt problem deserves the special attention of this assembly, since this delicate situation compels creditors and debtors to accept a shared responsibility that does not permit unilateral decisions, but rather calls for decisions stemming from dialogue that are agreed upon within the framework of total understanding of international and regional economic situations. These decisions must not be reached through narrow bilateral negotiations or through the unscrupulous practice of collecting excessive payments.

It is impossible to accept that foreign debt should be immorally used as an instrument of coercion to manipulate the political will of states to the detriment of their independence and national dignity. Mr President, as we approach the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Christopher Colombus' arrival in America, our contribution to that significant event will be to display desolation,

poverty, illiteracy, malnourishment, unemployment, foreign debt, exploitation, inequalities, and aggression. Perhaps this sorrowful picture will be the testimony we will present to the world of the heartbreaking truth that, after so many years, 500 years, a newly refined system of exploitation and enslavement wants to continue controlling a large part of the Americas.

On the threshold of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the encounter between America and Europe, Panama raises its historic cry for economic justice and political freedom. America does not want to continue being the land of laments with political doctrines that are unable to express its aspiration for total redemption [26-second break in reception]...to stem from the roots, from their very source.

It will do us no good to have big arenas for proclamations and fanfares if these are solely meant to satisfy local and short-lived demands or to hide clear flaws in social structure, if the major drug consuming country, which is the source of corrupting capital, declares there is no political commitment to completely solve this problem. That way, all our efforts will be in question. Panama reaffirms its moral commitment to this cause essential for the health, stability, and progress of our peoples. On this matter, Mr President, we act based on principles, and not to receive humiliating recognitions or awards. This is a major concern for Panama because it is the victim of a distortion of the truth and because brazen lies and false responsibilities are being used to deprive it of its status as a free and sovereign nation.

Mr President, recently we noted that the topic of Argentina's sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands has returned to the international debate in a positive light. We are celebrating the rapprochement achieved by the United Kingdom and Argentina. We trust that the decolonization process will cover those territories so that one day in the not-too-distant future we will be able to celebrate the total restoration of the Malvinas to the Argentine territorial estate.

Still suffering from colonial remnants in its own territory, and because of the solidarity we have always expressed with all movements and issues seeking end any situation or manifestation of colonialism, my country has proposed that this assembly adopt measures that would seek to eradicate colonialism on the American continent before the end of this century.

We express our firm hope that the climate of great transformations and substantial concessions that are observed worldwide will nurture the generosity and comprehension of Bolivians and Chileans so that a fraternal and just formula can be found for Bolivia's desire to find an outlet to the sea.

Unfortunately, in the confusing Central American situation we still find the United States continuing to block fulfillment of political agreements of the presidents of the region, as if the ones principally interested in securing peace are not the people, who are offering their lives and suffering the destruction.

There cannot be authentic democracy in any nation as long as the government of another nation is a belligerent party in its internal political process. The effective demobilization of the so-called contras, noninterference in the Nicaraguan electoral process, and a quick and sincere search for a negotiated political solution to the Salvadoran conflict, which today is living dramatic moments, are not the only necessary requisites for the region to return to the primary task of developing each of its countries.

It is also essential that the U.S. Government learn once and for all to accept the existence of different social and political regimes on the American continent, as it has done regarding other continents.

The human rights situation is a topic that must move us to seriously reflect, but above all, to perceive a manifest attempt to use such a noble cause as a political instrument within a domination strategy.

In the case of Panama, for instance, it is especially alarming that the element absent in all the charges made regarding human rights is that the Panamanian nation is enduring an attempt to destroy it by the most powerful government on the continent. In its attempt to do this, it has not had the slightest qualm about resorting to the dirtiest maneuvers, the most illegal resources, and the most condemnable interventionist conduct.

While in the analysis of human rights in other countries extenuating circumstances are considered, the fact that the U.S. Government commits overt and covert acts of war against Panama, and that it has maintained for 2 and ½ years a permanent state of hostility, constant threats, scandalous interference, and illegal occupation of sovereign Panamanian territory, is not seen anywhere, Mr President, nor is the situation described, commented on, much less taken into consideration.

The U.S. Government has reached the point of outright falsifying the human rights topic, using it capriciously to attack those governments it does not consider friendly and shrouding it with the mantle of accomplished ignorance when the transgressor boasts of official Washington acceptance. This is one of the greatest challenges the organization faces, and we can hardly speak of its being strengthened if we lend ourselves to having this topic debated in a world of deceit.

Aware of the Latin American and Caribbean countries' difficulties and problems, I want to express my government's disagreement with the U.S. Government's unilateral decision to increase the Panama Canal tolls. This decision was made without the participation or approval of the Panamanian representatives at the meeting of the Panama Canal Commission Board of Directors—the top policy-making body in the Panama Canal Commission.

Panamanians consider the canal to be a national resource and an eternal heritage, but we do not forget the needs of other countries. Panamanians have a right to profit from the canal, but we are not allowed to receive these profits at present, to uphold the colonial privileges of U.S. canal employees. These privileges are mainly subsidized by the countries that use canal services. These nations are subsidizing the U.S. Government's unilateral decisions and activities that have nothing to do with the efficient operation and maintenance of the canal.

Mr President, to increase and detail—without hindering—the information that is to be discussed on the subject of Panama at the General Assembly, I wish to refer now to the United States' massive international law violations against Panama. The objective of these violations is to substitute the Panamanian Government with a docile regime that will obey its orders, especially regarding its desire to prolong its military presence in my country, after 31 December 1999. The Panama Canal Treaties stipulate that the U.S. Armed Forces must totally and definitely abandon Panamanian territory on that date.

Before describing the U.S. Government's behavior, I would like to read a relevant part of these canal treaties. These treaties were signed in this same room and in the presence of almost all the regional presidents—in times that were very different from the present one. Article Two of the Agreement for the Implementation of Article Four of the Canal Treaty, under the title Principles of Nonintervention, says the following, and I quote: The members of the forces, civilians—and this refers to the U.S. civilian forces—and independant contractors designated by the U.S. forces, will respect the laws of the Republic of Panama and will abstain from any activity that is incompatible with the spirit of this agreement. They will especially abstain from all political activity in the Republic of Panama, as well as intervening in any way in Panama's domestic affairs. The United States will take all the measures, within its capabilities, to ensure the compliance of this article's dispositions. End quote.

During the past 29 months, the U.S. Government has been carrying out a series of actions proving its complete contempt for this and other dispositions that are clearly stated in the treaties. Allow me, Mr President, to give you a few examples:

The U.S. Government has been moving its troops and elements of war constantly in Panamanian territory, outside defense sites. The troops have circulated in our territory in an intimidating and provocative attitude. War planes have constantly flown very low over civilian communities and Panamanian military installations, and military convoys have transitted over Panamanian highways and through communities. All these actions have threatened to cause armed incidents.

In addition to this, there is no recognition of the areas returned to Panama; noncompliance with rulings by binational military organizations; the seizing of the water purification plant that supplies water to the cities of Panama and Colon; the arbitrary arrest of popular leaders and local and military authorities; incursions into and the isolation of a building where the Court of Justice has offices, preventing justices from entering the building; the closing on various occasions of major roads, including the Pan-American Highway and the Trans-Isthmian Highway, thus preventing free transit by Panamanians; and the temporary occupation of parks, schools, hospitals, and recently a botanical garden.

In view of the prudent and calm attitude of the FDP [Popular Democratic Front], an attitude that has prevented fatal confrontations, American soldiers now, as they have been doing for some time, are dedicating themselves to fabricating incidents among themselves to blame Panama. However, they have been unable to produce any evidence of FDP involvement in hostile actions against U.S. civilians, installations, or Army.

Regarding canal operations, I want to point out the following violations: The holding of Panama Canal Commission sessions without the participation of the Panamanian side; the increasing of canal tolls without the approval of the Panamanian members of the Canal Commission; the indefinite postponement of urgently needed work on the canal so that it functions efficiently and normally in the next few years; the retention of canal annuity payments to Panama; disregard for appointments, promotion rights, and labor benefits of Panamanian Canal Commission workers.

Mr President, Article 19 of our Charter establishes, I quote: No state may apply or promote coercive measures of an economic or political nature to bend the will of a sovereign state to secure any kind of advantages. End quote.

The United States, openly violating this article, has unleashed an economic war against the Republic of Panama by adopting, among others, the following measures: The freezing of National Bank of Panama funds in New York; prohibition that prevents U.S. firms in Panama from paying taxes to the Panamanian Government; the embargo of the assets of the Panamanian state airline; the retention of Panamanian Canal Commission employees' income tax and nondelivery of these funds to the Panamanian Government; the cancellation of the sugar quota; the excluding of Panama from Caribbean Basin project benefits; and, recently, the announcement that ships registered under the Panamanian flag are prohibited from docking at U.S. ports. [as heard]

In addition to the freezing of funds and the campaign of rumors, the United States is carrying out an additional campaign to produce very serious harm to the Panamanian Banking System, a campaign that has begun a process that is rapidly destroying all sectors of the economy.

Mr President, this brutal economic aggression, which has devastating effects, has resulted in a 25-percent drop in

GNP and has pushed our economy to what it was 20 years ago, with the resulting impoverishment of the Panamanian nation.

Another example of U.S. trampling on international law and complete disregard for the sovereignty of Panama is the arbitrary seizure of the building and assets of Panama's embassy in this city.

As 31 December 1999 approaches, the date when the U.S. presence in Panama must end according to the Torrijos-Carter treaties, the United States will intensify its disinformation policy against Panama in the international field while conducting a true low intensity war domestically.

To close this cycle of protests over shameful violations of international law, I must refer to one in particular that is to take place in the next few days.

According to the canal treaties, effective 1 January 1990 the administrator of the Panama Canal will be a Panamanian citizen proposed by the Republic of Panama. In accordance with Panamanian legal procedures, the Legislative Assembly of my country duly elected in June of this year Tomas Gabriel Altamirano, a respected businessman and meritorious professional, to occupy that important position. However, the U.S. Government has publicly stated that it will not accept the administrator proposed by the Republic of Panama. This fact, which is almost a fait accompli, will become one of the most flagrant and clear violations of the treaties. In addition, it will annul one of the greatest achievements of the Panamanian people.

Mr President, Panama respects and abides by the principles and norms of our regional organization, which represents a genuine expression of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of member states. Our charter categorically states that none of its articles authorizes the organization to intervene in the internal affairs of member states, as the contrary would turn the organization into a court or body of permanent intervention in the daily activities of each one of the countries on the American continent.

The OAS Charter also reflects our commitment to the promotion and consolidation of representative democracy, within the framework of respect for the principle of nonintervention. In that regard, Panama would like to clearly express its democratic convictions, not merely under the classic and formal model, but enriched with the community's permanent participation.

The constant and obvious U.S. intervention in our recent electoral process invalidated this exercise of self-determination by the Panamanian people. It is a well-known fact that, regrettably, the elections had to be annulled in accordance with the current Panamanian Constitution and laws.

The open U.S. participation in those elections was very obvious through notorious actions such as the following: The U.S. Armed Forces through its television station and its newspaper TROPIC TIMES, and through armed, uniformed, or [word indistinct] personnel, became electoral allies of the opposition groups identified with the White House's specific guidelines.

Fleets of vehicles rented by the United States were illegally used for purposes of destabilization and to promote political unrest. Other U.S. agencies in Panama facilitated the use of facsimile and photocopying machines, radio transmitters and receptors, as well as portable radio transmitters, to carry out subversive activities.

A few weeks before the elections, in addition to the frequent confiscation of weapons and bombs, Panamanian authorities discovered a wide range of equipment to intercept television and radio communications, with prerecorded cassettes and video clips with calls to subvert order and participate in subversive activities.

Its main technician and operator in Panama was a U.S. citizen who had been contracted by the U.S. Government, and he confessed his guilt.

A few days before the elections, and as additional and conclusive evidence of U.S. participation, it became public knowledge here—in the United States—that over $10 million had been donated to the opposition the United States favored. On top of that, 1 month before the elections the U.S. President announced to the world that the Panamanian elections were going to be fraudulent, and that the United States would only recognize the victory of the opposition.

It was first tried in Panama—as it is now being tried in Nicaragua—to promise in vain that tremendous amounts of economic assistance would be granted to build the economy of the country that has been destroyed by its mercenaries and aggressions. Naturally, if those candidates the United States wants are not elected, then there is the threat of more destruction. In other words, vote for the pro-U.S. candidates, or there will be more suffering for the Panamanian people.

In a show of profound respect for the opinions and feelings of the other governments, and even aware of how the elements of judgment of our reality had been manipulated, the Panamanian Government accepted receiving a special OAS mission. This mission was offering to help find, in a friendly manner, formulas of agreement in order to overcome internal political problems that do not concern the organization. We offered all facilities. We did all we could, without any conditions. We had the best intentions to reach a conciliation that would not entail giving up our independence or jeopardizing our sovereignty.

In fact, if there is something that can clearly be said about the OAS mission not achieving formulas of agreement, it is the fact that the U.S. Government maintained a policy of aggression, pressure, and intimidation at all times. It even resorted to the most ostentatious threats,

precisely when the OAS mission members were in Panama. You can ask them, if you will.

We reiterate our sincere gratitude to the Ecuadoran, Guatemalan, Trinidadian and Tobagan foreign ministers, as well as the secretary general, for their efforts in Panama. They, Mr President, are the best witnesses of how much flexibility and political resolve the government showed in the search for an understanding among the Panamanians.

In spite of the efforts made by the OAS mission and in spite of the flexible attitude of the government, it was not possible to achieve a national agreement, mainly because of the stubborn stand of the opposition and of the intervention of foreign factors.

To counter this situation, and to prevent a national vacuum and a generalized destabilization of national life, the national government issued—through the General State Council—Agreement No 1 dated 31 August 1989, whereby a provisional government was established as of 1 September 1989. This survival action by the state does not violate the national constitution. It represents a political decision that is temporary and that will be evaluated in March 1990 in order to determine if conditions are proper for holding new elections without U.S. intervention and aggression, as these are the main obstacles to the effective development of the Panamanian democratic process.

On behalf of my government, I reaffirm here its official and public commitment to hold free and honest elections as soon as the U.S. aggression against Panama ends and suitable conditions are created for a true exercise of democratic self-determination, without intervention, without meddling, and without external pressure.

Those countries that are honestly interested in Panama's democratization can make a valuable contribution to this process by asking the United States to halt its aggression against Panama. As soon as it happens, Mr President, free and democratic elections will take place in Panama.

They must return our funds; they must return our diplomatic and consular missions; they must lift the economic, financial, and commercial sanctions against our country; they must respect the international agreements and commitments that were not made with this government, but with the Panamanian state; they must suspend the war maneuvers and exercises conducted by the U.S. Armed Forces in our territory; they must fully respect and comply with the Panama Canal Treaties; they must stop meddling in our internal affairs; they must suspend their aggressive, destabilization, and coup oriented policies against Panama, and we will be creating the conditions for holding free and honest elections. Help us in this.

The existence of a provisional government has not obstructed the democratic development of Panamanian society. There is wide open participation of the people through the people's, community, local, municipal, and provincial governments, as well as through the corregimiento representatives. In addition, we must indicate that political parties continue to carry out their activities.

Mr President, unequivocal and recent evidence of U.S. meddling in Panamanian domestic affairs is the open acceptance by high U.S. Government officials of their participation in planning, organizing, supporting, and executing a coup attempt carried out by a group of Panama Defense Forces [FDP] officers on 3 October, an attack that was defeated in a matter of hours. Other evidence of meddling and lack of respect for the Panamanian State, its authority, and its people was the public announcement of the U.S. authorities' agreement with a plan to assassinate or kidnap General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the FDP.

These are the kinds of actions that should concern the international community, because they are a real threat for all those Latin American leaders who decide to follow paths that are different from those designed by Washington, or those who decide to defend their country's dignity. These leaders could become victims of the irrational wrath of U.S. leaders.

Mr President, from Los Angeles today we received serious and disturbing information for the countries that respect international law and that love peace, which confirms the charges I have just made. THE LOS ANGELES TIMES reports today that the Bush administration, with the secret approval of Congress, has launched a new covert operation to oust FDP Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega by using means that could lead to his death. For this operation, the fearful CIA has been authorized to spend $3 million to recruit officials, mercenaries, and dissidents to stage and execute the coup. Three million dollars—how little traitors and lackeys are worth.

In this operation the U.S Administration has maintained the option of using U.S. troops. The sequence of attacks in the operation against Gen Noriega has been called Panama Five. A source close to the operation said that he is wanted dead or alive.

Mr President, I hereby denounce before the Americas this new act of state terrorism by the United States against Panama, which shows that the United States is not giving up its criminal aggression against my country or its behavior of being an international criminal by making use of the lowest and most wicked means condemned by international law.

The dignified governments represented here cannot remain indifferent in the face of this reprehensible action by the United States against the Republic of Panama and the integrity of its leaders.

The evolution of the various stages of these overwhelming acts of aggression against Panama—which I have just mentioned—seems to indicate that the United

States enjoys full, total, and absolute impunity to commit all sorts of abuses and attacks against a small Latin American country, to the detriment of hemispheric dignity and in flagrant violation of numerous principles and norms of this organization's charter.

At this assembly, we have correctly concluded that the OAS mainly depends on the strict respect and honest adherence to the charter's principles and goals. This strengthening will never be achieved if we allow a powerful member of this organization to systematically violate its foundations and attack another member state with impunity.

Mr President, the time has come to put an end to so many abuses of the OAS Charter. Mr President, the signing of the Panama Canal Treaties, which took place at this forum in the presence of presidents, heads of state and government of the member states of our organization, who acted as witnesses and guarantors of its faithful fulfillment, is in jeopardy.

This is why Panama demands that the OAS react to this in accordance with its charter; that the United States faithfully and strictly comply with the Torrijos-Carter treaties; that it stop its aggression against the Panamanian nation. To do otherwise would be tantamount to condoning a mockery of Latin American dignity, insulting its leaders, and becoming accomplices to imperialist goals.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm before the representatives of the countries of this hemisphere that despite the aggression, threats, pressure, and intervention, Panama will not stray one centimeter from its main national goal of completing the process of establishing the national Panamanian state and achieving full independence through the fulfillment of the decolonization process specified in the Panama Canal treaties.

This is our most precious and important national goal, and to reach it the Panamanian people will successfully overcome in any arena all the obstacles the enemy has placed to prevent it from achieving its goals. Thank you very much. [applause]

Inter-American Human Rights Report Viewed

PA1611184789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Guillermo Cochez [Panamanian Christian Democratic Party Vice President] is one of the members of the Panamanian opposition delegation attending the OAS General Assembly as observers. He commented as follows about a report on human rights in Panama that is to be presented at the OAS General Assembly on 15 November.

[Begin Cochez recording] The report condemns the violation of the opposition's political rights in Panama, per Article 23 of the American Convention on Human Rights. The commission considered that the vast majority of Panamanian people have expressed their political will in a responsible and serious manner. The annulment of the 7 May 1989 elections by the Electoral Tribunal and the lack of consensus among the main Panamanian political parties has left the present provisional government without any constitutional legitimacy. I repeat this because I know that it is one of the things that hurts certain people in Panama the most. The Inter-American Human Rights Commission's report on human rights violations in Panama states in point 9 that the lack of consensus between the main poltical parties in Panama has left the present provisional government without any constitutional legitimacy.

The report's second chapter gives the commission's recommendations on the Panamanian case. I, Guillermo Cochez, will comment on these recommendations from Washington, where I am attending the OAS General Assembly as an observer for Radio Impacto. The recommendations are the following:

Based on our investigations, the Inter-American Human Rights Commission recommends the following to the Panamanian Government:

1. An immediate halt should be made to violent actions and harrassment against the civilian population by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], the police, and armed groups to avoid the loss of more lives and physical violations, such as have been occurring. Also to be stopped immediately are torture and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment by the FDP against persons who are under arrest.

2. Those arrested for political reasons, including military personnel arrested in the 1988 attempted coup and who have been in jail for a period that exceeds the legal term, should be released immediately. The military personnel mentioned is the group headed by Colonel Leonidas Macias and Majors Fernando Quesada, Aristides Baldonedo, Jaime Benitez, Humberto Macea, Cristobal Fundora, and others who have been in prison for more than a year, since March 1988.

3. Immediately authorize the return of the exiled; give them the necessary guarantees for their personal security; and enable them to practice their political rights.

4. Immediately authorize the operation of the media that are now prohibited from operating.

'High-Level Commission' To Study Labor Issues

PA1711023889 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 12 Nov 89 pp 1a, 8a

[Report by Garritt H. Geneteau D.]

[Text] As part of the ministry's new working schedule, Labor Minister George Fisher has designated a "high-level commission" to study the Organic Law and the new functions that have been assigned to the ministry.

Minister Fisher stated that the commission will have a 45-day period to render a report with its recommendations, including suggestions on "social justice" within the institution based on "the New Republic" concept.

The minister will be discussing several issues with business and labor union leaders. Already last week the minister met with the managers of Cardoze and Lindo and discussed the negotiation process between the workers and the firm. It is important to note that the firm presented interesting proposals for reaching a satisfactory agreement with the workers and now awaits the workers' counter proposal.

Fisher has also taken a personal interest in the Dairy Queen case (Servicio de Helados, S.A.), in which 35 workers were fired. The termination of these employees is currently been revised. In this case, the ministry noted that labor relations require improvement and that a decision on the labor conflict will be made shortly.

The Labor Ministry also mediated in the case of Pre-Mezclados Industries, which wanted to fire approximately 15 workers. However, the ministry only allowed it to fire five. According to Minister Fisher, the firing of the five employees was allowed because construction has suffered a strong setback caused by U.S. aggression.

Minister Fisher aims to return the Labor Ministry to the Torrijist principles, and he is showing it can be done with his work of consulting internal and external sources to enable the institution to improve its operations.

Argentina

Economy Minister Rapanelli Addresses Nation

PY1611122489 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Address to the nation by Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] Ladies and gentlemen, only 120 days ago we Argentines had no hopes; we were submerged in hyperinflation and recession. Now we have new hopes; the monthly inflation rate dropped from 200 to 5 percent; production has increased; more jobs are available. We are much better off than 4 months ago.

The government is working hard to eliminate the fiscal deficit, to curb inflation, to privatize state companies, and to improve tax collection. Let me tell you, however, that this is not the objective of the government's effort. The objective for which Mr Menem's administration is working is to improve our standard of living. This is why the president has said that we must place the economy at the service of man. All the rest, all the issues that are managed by economists—such as gross domestic product, trade surplus, fiscal balance, and stability—are simply instruments that will allow us to achieve a standard of living in keeping with human dignity by means of our own resources, efforts, and intelligence.

I will not take up your time speaking only of what we accomplished. I am speaking to you because I have sensed some concern over the possibility of losing the achievements we have attained since last July. President Menem's government is very clear. We will continue the economic program and especially continue to pursue our goal of stability. Our firm determination has a simple explanation. Inflation is paid for by those who have less. To defend stability, therefore, is to defend popular market economy. Without stability there are no savings, no investments, no productive revolution, and no increase in jobs or in real salaries.

Stability is a nonnegotiable social achievement. That is why our next step will be to consolidate price stability. The struggle to reduce the monthly inflation rate from that persistent and insidious 5 percent is being faced by the government with the same determination with which it faced and defeated hyperinflation.

The basis of this struggle has been set. The laws to reform the state, the economic emergency bill, and the draft bill on tax reform are the basic instruments of the changes we began to introduce in the country. The suspension and elimination of subsidies—which were nothing but privileges or advantages enjoyed by part of the private sector to the detriment of the rest of the population—is one of the main aspects of the economic emergency law.

Do the Argentine people know that those subsidies totaled an annual $3 billion, which represents $100 from each citizen's pocket,—or to put it in other terms, three times what the government spends on education and culture; or seven times what it spends on health; or twenty times what is allotted to the judicial branch; or two-thirds of the Argentine public investment?

We must not be satisfied with this. We are determined to reduce public expenditure, which is the main generator of inflation. We are already doing what is done in a well-administered home; we are not spending more than what we can pay. The elimination of a $400-million additional budget allotment demonstrates our desire to reduce public expenses.

As you know, we are making daily efforts to reduce public expenses. First, we will sell 60,000 unnecessary state properties. Second, we will eliminate some public agencies, such as systems, architecture departments, and legal departments that are duplicating services. Third, we will approve a reorganization plan for the Argentine Railway Company before the end of the year, to eliminate its current annual $850 million deficit in 2 years—70 percent during the 1st year and 30 percent during the 2d year. Fourth, we will combine all the specific funds of the National Treasury to integrate about $4 billion to the unified treasury management.

These are a few of the measures that will be implemented immediately. I insist that we are working daily to balance the public accounts in a practical manner, with force and determination, and with realistic rather than fantastic measures. Within this framework, the national government has realistically decided to dissolve the organization created to move the capital, ENTECAP [Organization for the Transfer of the Capital].

While dealing with the fiscal deficit problem, the national government must honor the internal debt and rebuild its capacity to provide essential services. This is why we sent Congress a draft bill on tax reform, which will be implemented as soon as it is approved. Meanwhile, since we will not resort to an inflationary tax, we designed an emergency tax policy for the present year.

This emergency plan includes an emergency tax on the capital increase of enterprises and financial institutions during this year as the result of the anomalous hyperinflationary situation the country has experienced. The solidarity bond on sales will be absorbed into this new emergency tax. Revenues to be obtained from this measure are estimated at $300 million. Additionally, an emergency tax totaling $50 million will be levied on the all the vehicles in the country. Finally, the public enterprises will transfer $150 million to the National Treasury.

Let it be clear that we are calling upon—and not imposing sanctions on—those who have more capacity to contribute. We are only trying to distribute burdens more evenly. We will be firm in persuading the taxpayers to comply with their fiscal obligations regularly. This firm action must not be confused with arbitrary action, because we will only be zealous enforcers of the equity principle, both in legislation and administration. A practical expression of this is the rule of spontaneous tax

declaration that will expire on 20 December, and, which, unlike previous rules, does not imply forgiveness nor reduction of due, nondeclared taxes. This is not a measure to merely increase revenues, but an opportunity for taxpayers who have not complied, in time and form, to discharge their obligations to society.

The hierarchy we have established for the revenues collection apparatus reveals that we will not relent until the generalized practice of tax evasion is ended. As part of the structural reforms, the national government has just implemented a program of deregulation for the oil industry, enabling us to release this sector's potential and to attract investments that should surpass $10 million in the next 5 years—thus generating new jobs, and putting resources that remained unexploited underground at the service of the productive revolution. Foreign investments have also been deregulated to put them on equal footing with domestic investments, and the "buy national" obligation has been decentralized and simplified. Along the line of deregulation, we will continue to work on all sectors of the nation's economy. Consequently, the demonopolization and deregulation of the reinsurance and insurance markets will be soon implemented.

Through the law on state reform, a determined process of privatization of public enterprises—a key to attaining the objectives of the productive revolution—has been set in motion in various areas of the national government, in a coherent manner and with the consent of the Public Works and Public Services Ministry. The privatization of any enterprise takes time, and it is obvious that it cannot be done overnight, but steps are being taken faster than in any other country. Before this year ends, television channels 11 and 13 will have been privatized, and next December we will make available the terms of bidding on the privatization of ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise].

After a deluge of words in recent years, would the people suppose that this stage would have been completed in 6 months, and that the privatization of ENTEL would be finished in another 6 months? This will contribute to improving the quality of service and the fiscal situation through the income it will bring in. We know that some even now people do not believe that we can achieve the proufound transformations undertaken, and that some people even intend to impede those changes.

To control hyperflation, we adopted a foreign exchange policy in July based on a fixed exchange rate. We are convinced that 600 australs to the dollar will continue to make possible the uninterrupted sale of our products abroad. At the same time, the gradual reduction of export-generated dollar withholding constitutes an indirect mechanism of devaluation—making it possible to compensate for the residual inflation that we are still experiencing. No modification of this foreign-exchange policy should be expected, because we understand that the large devaluations of the past are only easy solutions to the problems created by inflation. Do the people know that this was one of the few cases of hyperinflation in world's economic history that was brought under control without massive foreign support?

The current Central Bank reserves have not come from abroad. We received a country with its public accounts in disorder and without reserves in the Central Bank. We were forced to issue money to buy reserves so as not to paralyze importation or the national economy and to honor inherited, unavoidable obligations. This increased our internal debt. However, we did not issue money to finance Treasury operational costs or to grant discounts.

What other government is able to say, without lying or modifying figures or concepts, what we are currently able to say?

We are promoting the independence of the Central Bank from the Economy Ministry so that monetary stability, which we consider a basic social value, may be safeguarded by a monetary authority without temporary political interferences.

My characteristic has always been and will continue to be to speak to you clearly and sincerely about the performance of the economy. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Government Discusses Emergency; Others React

Capobianco on Elections, COB

PY1611153289 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] According to Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco, the state of siege will allow municipal elections to be held on 3 December under normal conditions. Justifying the state of siege, he said that the elections are another reason for this measure, because elections could not be held in a climate of social agitation.

Regarding decisions on ways of conducting the electoral campaign, he said that each prefecture will have the authority to decide. Each prefecture will also decide on the electoral campaigns in its respective district.

The interior minister added that directors of some radio and television stations are being used by agitators. He added that there exists freedom of press and freedom to rally in preparation for the elections. He said, however, that proclaiming subversive slogans will not be permitted.

[Begin Capobianco recording] I have learned, for example, that some [words indistinct] are surprising some directors and owners of radio stations with telephone calls demanding that subversive slogans be broadcast. This is forbidden by the state of siege and liable to punishments.

The owners of radio stations must not allow these things to happen. This is forbidden, and those making the telephone calls are violating the rules currently in effect. Thus, it will be easy to [words indistinct]. The operations

will continue, therefore. We will be absolutely alert to any action of this nature. [end recording]

Referring to another subject, the interior minister stated that there is no reason for COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] union leaders to go underground if they have nothing illegal to hide. Regarding the COB decision to call a general strike today and tomorrow, the minister said that the strike is illegal under the state of siege.

For this reason, he reaffirmed that the government will continue with the operations until the country returns to absolute normalcy, preventing enemies of democracy, new and old Trotskyists, from continuing with their agitation.

Minister Discusses Detainees

PY1611172489 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Bolivian Aeronautics Minister Luis Gonzales Quintanilla has stated that the government will assess the current political and social situation in the country, and, based on the development of this situation, it will decide on the confinement period of union leaders in different military garrisons in the country.

He added that the detainees, taken on early Wednesday morning to different confinement places, are being treated with consideration by the military. It is difficult to say precisely how long will they remain under confinement, but the government will try to make it as short as possible.

[Begin Gonzales recording] The time has not yet been decided. It will depend on the political and social situation in the country. We hope that it will normalize as soon as possible and that the people will again return to the same pace of activities desired by most Bolivians, that is, a climate of tranquillity and social peace. Of course the government will have to make an assessment of the situation to allow those who have been confined to return and resume their normal activities and responsibilities.

Rules for Election Campaigning

PY1711022289 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] The La Paz Department Prefecture has issued a resolution to complement the government restrictions established in the declaration of a state of emergency in the country.

The prefecture states its support for the government resolutions that are aimed at guaranteeing the municipal electoral process, and issues the following complementary regulations:

1. Demonstrations on foot, mobile propaganda and posters, distribution of pamphlets, forums, debates, motorcades, social receptions, visits, neighborhood and provincial proclamations, and all demonstrations that are exclusively linked to the municipal elections will be permitted.

2. Any group interested in demonstrating in downtown La Paz will have to present an application to the prefecture.

Prefect Fernando Casia has issued this resolution to set guidelines for the campaigns of the many political parties involved in the elections for councilmen.

Labor, Church Groups React

PY1611202189 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1810 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] La Paz, 16 Nov (TELAM-PL) The Bolivian Government today confronted a labor strike and numerous declarations condemning the state of siege. The strike was called by the powerful Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), which is in hiding, and President Paz Zamora's government immediately declared it illegal.

According to COB leaders "from somewhere in Bolivia," the measure "seeks to force the government to release the 146 labor leaders who were arrested yesterday morning following the declaration of the state of siege and sent to remote jungle outposts."

Labor sources said the strike is being respected by all COB member organizations. Government spokesmen have reported, however, that the strike "was a failure."

It has been reported that commercial enterprises, banking activities, public administration, and the transport system operated normally in La Paz. The situation at schools, however, remained confused because of the 3-week old teachers' strike.

The Federation of Press Workers and San Andres University have joined the strike. The "Lloyd Aereo Boliviano" state airline (LAB) was forced to reduce its regular schedule after the LAB Labor Union joined the strike. The airline is operating only international flights, and internal flights to Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

Following the release of some of the 858 people who were arrested, an Interior Ministry spokesman said yesterday that "the government will enforce the state of siege and if necessary will make further arrests."

Meanwhile, the "United Left" (IU) coalition, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) of former president Victor Paz Estenssoro, and other sectors have vigorously condemned the state of siege and demanded that it be "immediately lifted."

The Episcopal Conference—Catholic bishops assembly—also condemned the state of siege and issued a declaration that "the government was never very eager to reach an agreement with the teachers."

The hunger strike staged by hundreds of teachers as of 23 October created what the government termed "a destabilizing climate," and provoked it into declaring the "state of emergency."

MNR Leader Critical

PY1611200789 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, the acting leader of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR], has stated that curtailing citizens' rights during the municipal elections is strange and will certainly call the attention of the international community.

Sanchez de Lozada criticized the decision of the Executive Branch, and stated that he does not understand how elections can be held while citizens' rights and guarantees are suspended.

Teachers Want Detainees' Release

PY1611202489 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] The La Paz departmental federation of rural teachers and its strike committee has released a communique demanding the immediate return of property seized by individuals from the Interior Ministry and the immediate release of all detained and confined people. It has also instructed its members to respect the 24-hour strike called for by the Bolivian Labor Federation.

The communique ends by saying: The organized teachers federation will not give up its economic demands.

Foreign Minister Addresses OAS Assembly

PY1611205889 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde has asked the American nations to cooperate with his country in its efforts to reach an agreement with Chile by which Bolivia will recover its access to the ocean.

The foreign minister made this proposal yesterday at the 19th General Assembly of the OAS in Washington. Iturralde said that justice and true integration will be achieved in South America when Bolivia, which had an outlet to the sea when it achieved its independence, regains its sovereign, useful access to the Pacific Ocean. He said that this would be a step toward peace, integration, and development for all.

He added that, since 1979, nine OAS general assemblies have approved resolutions supporting this Bolivian demand. He also mentioned other declarations by the Nonaligned Movement and by several other regional and world forums. We have the support of law, reason, equity, and history to demand compensation for the unjust aggression against Bolivia, the foreign minister stated.

He then referred to the foreign debt issue, stating that responsibility must be shared by debtors and creditors alike and that a negotiated political solution is required. He warned that the decapitalization of Latin America by the foreign debt destroys the regional economic structure and creates an explosive social environment that undermines the consolidation of democracy in the region.

The foreign minister also discussed the drug-trafficking problem. He said that this evil spawns serious conflicts that must be treated in accordance with each country's specific circumstances. In Bolivia's case, he said, the high unemployment rate and critical poverty have unfortunately forced unemployed workers to engage in coca crop production.

Iturralde added that the replacement of coca crops will be achieved only through investments that will [word indistinct] the economy and promote alternative development.

To fight drugs we must fight poverty, he said, and to protect the ecology we must prevent the use of the chemical precursors used in manufacturing cocaine, which destroy the environment. He concluded by saying that there is a fatal connection among poverty, drug trafficking, and environmental depredation.

Brazil

Collor de Mello Still First in Election Results

Latest Official Vote Count

PY1711023089 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0150 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The Superior Electoral Court [TSE] in Brasilia has just issued the latest official bulletin, the last for 16 November. These are the official election figures:

Fernando Collor has received 4,116,615 votes; Luis Inacio da Silva (Lula) has 2,641,245 votes; Leonel Brizola has 2,434,151 votes; Mario Covas has 1,714,007 votes; and Paulo Maluf has 997,366 votes.

This is the latest bulletin issued by the TSE. A total of 20.68 percent of the votes have been counted so far. Luis Inacio da Silva of the PT [Workers' Party] is in second place in the official tally. This is the only information in which the official count differs from that of Rede Globo-.[passage omitted]

Updated Rede Globo Tally

PY1611170089 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1621 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Good afternoon. Here we are again with the "Elections 89" feature.

We will now show you Rede Globo's nationwide chart of the results of the vote counting. The slight difference between second and third places continues. Up to the present time 35.6 of the votes have been counted by Rede Globo. Following are the figures:

Fernando Collor has 7,439,517 votes, Leonel Brizola has 4,929,704 votes, Luis Inacio da Silva has 4,649,296

votes, Mario Covas has 3,908,098 votes, and Paulo Maluf has 2,657,305 votes. [passage omitted]

* Reportage on Supercomputer Acquisition

* INPE To Be First

90ET0015A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Oct 89 p 9

[Article by Jose Paulo Kupfer and Leda Beck]

[Text] The National Institute of Space Research (INPE), linked to the Ministry of Science and Technology, will be the first Brazilian entity to operate a large-scale scientific supercomputer. The INPE scientists have been working on the project for more than 2 years and the bidding for the purchase of equipment was finally opened on 9 August. "Internationally, there are no restrictions of any kind on imports," explained Pedro Dias, the Institute's director of meteorology, "nor do we see the possibility of any restriction by the U.S. Government, since the equipment will be used for a specific purpose, with all the safeguards."

To date, the INPE has already been approached by seven groups in response to the announcement soliciting bids and the deadline for tender proposals is 30 October. The director of the INPE believes that 30 to 45 days after that date the winner will be named. The timetable calls for the installation of the equipment in the beginning of 1991, in the INPE Center for Weather Prediction and Climate Studies, in Cachoeira Paulista (Sao Paulo) and the predicted investment is about $30 million. The groups include Clay Research, the world's largest manufacturer of supercomputers; at least two Japanese companies (NEC and Fujitsu); the North American firm, Unisys; IBM; and two smaller groups who want to supply parts of the system.

"The project does not call for just a supercomputer," confirmed INPE's director of meteorology. "We also want a storage system for meteorological data, a telecommunications system, and training and maintenance programs. The winning bidder should supply and integrate all this, in addition to arranging for $22 million in foreign financing." The minimum performance of the machine is 235 megaflops—or roughly 235 million calculations per second. The solicitation also calls for applied software packages for mathematical statistics and graphics.

Specific Task

The U.S. Government has a policy of impeding the export of very powerful machines with possible military applications, supercomputers being a typical example. "But our machine will be dedicated to weather prediction and climatic simulations," explained Dias, who also heads the INPE Center for Weather Prediction and Climate Studies. Although the INPE functions in Sao Jose dos Campos, its Center for Climate Studies is in Cachoeira Paulista, also in Sao Paulo State. There the institution will begin construction next month on a special building to house the supercomputer. "It will not have terminals and it will not be possible to access it through the telecommunications system," assured the INPE director. That telecommunications system will be used by the INPE center in Brasilia and will access the system for the storage of weather data—and not the supercomputer itself. Just the construction of the building, which will provide space to house two supercomputers operating simultaneously, should cost $6 million.

* Japanese Participation

90ET0015B Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Oct 89 p 9

[Text] Tokyo—Installed in Brazil more than 20 years ago, the NEC Corporation has been limited up to now to the telecommunications sector. This appears to have more to do with the market reserve adopted by this country and with conflicts with local associates than with any kind of strategic decision by the company. The aggressive way in which the company set forth its tender proposal for the INPE supercomputer is certainly an indication that the Japanese NEC could have more ambitious plans for the Brazilian market.

The NEC's participation in the bidding for the installation of the first supercomputer in Brazil is not in itself indicative of such intentions. After all, the product is to be imported in its entirety and, moreover, it will operate in an area far outside the boundaries of the reserve market for computers. Not even the potential demand for these powerful machines in this country, at least in the coming years, could inspire plans for local production. Even so, no one among the executives of Japan's NEC denies that winning the INPE competition would serve as an important spearhead for future market penetration by the company in sectors of advanced technology, such as communications satellites.

"If we could, we would like to operate in the area of computers and, to this end, we have considered the possibility of transferring technology to a Brazilian company," revealed Tadashi Suzuki, executive vice president of the NEC Corporation, between sips of tea, in one of the meeting rooms of the company headquarters in Mita District, in Tokyo. Suzuki, whose highly successful career includes a 7-year stay in Brazil in the 1970's and, more recently, the presidency of the strategic NEC corporation in America, guarded further information regarding this matter behind a polite smile, but he added that there had already been conversations with a Brazilian partner—businessman Roberto Marinho, president of the Organizacoes Globo and an associate of NEC in Brazil—regarding the formation of a company legally equipped to operate in the computer sector.

With more than 70 factory units installed in about 30 countries, producing more than 15 million items, from supercomputers and satellites to video cassettes and video games, the NEC is looking to the future, convinced that the communications sector will not survive unless it

is integrated with the computer sector and certain of the increasing inevitability that production will be transferred to centers where the markets are seen to be attractive. "The NEC is prepared to bring in the technology and capital to bring about this local production, including in Brazil, which is an important market for us," Suzuki anticipated.

* International Alliance

90ET0015C Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Oct 89 p 9

[Article by Silvana Quaglio]

[Text] Brasilia—An international alliance in the area of computers, involving developing countries with similar industrial characteristics, could be created to confront the union among the advanced nations which, by means of agreements and alliances, seek to protect their technology and their position in the world market in the sector. This was the theory set forth yesterday by Ambassador Sebastiao Rego Barros in a lecture delivered to the Conference on National Computer Policy, organized by Senator Severo Gomes, (PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]-Sao Paulo), in the Federal Senate.

"We have strategic and practical reasons to look in this direction," declared the ambassador, who has been following the development of the national computer industry. The alliance should bring together Brazil, Argentina, China, India, and probably the Eastern European countries. According to Rego Barros, it would be a difficult task, but politically possible, to bring about the union.

Based on the example of the developed countries, the ambassador also argued for government participation in the development and consolidation of the computer industry. In his view, the important thing is to assess the available instruments that could be used to ensure the strengthening of the computer industries, in developed countries and otherwise.

In the ambassador's assessment, Brazil's Computer Law is not xenophobic or overprotective; on the contrary, the National Computer Policy, Barros said, has few instruments for providing incentives to the industry. He noted, for example, that in the United States the Reagan administration invested $26 billion in 5 years in the development of the state-of-the-art technology called for in the Strategic Defense Initiative. Barros also cited the case of Korea, whose government ordered 5,000 microcomputers from the country's computer industry, even before it was established. In this way, the Korean Government managed to outfit its schools and, at the same time, to bring about the growth of the industry.

The United States is working within the GATT (the UN organ that regulates international trade) with the intent to establish standards for services, too, and not just for consumer products and capital goods, standards which could result in a new code of ethics for international trade. According to Rego Barros, the tendency is to establish stricter rules for exportation, and this could bring into question the legality of the Befiex plan, which calls for the concession of incentives for production destined for the foreign market.

* Definition of Supercomputer

90ET0015D Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Oct 89 p 9

[Text] They made it possible to design the NASA [National Aeronautics and Space Administration] space bus, the computerized topography equipment, and the MX missile, which saved the U.S. Navy $25 million because it could test the missiles with computerized simulation. Supercomputers, which a little more than a decade ago moved out of science fiction into governmental or university research institutions of the great powers, have now penetrated the giant companies of the developed countries and are becoming part of the daily life of the citizens.

What particularly defines them is the extraordinary speed with which they process data and a fabulous memory capacity, all based on the technology of parallel processing; that is, instead of a single central processor, as in the case of microcomputers, the supercomputer has a set of processors. Developing commercial software for this technology is an extremely complex matter, but there is increasing interest in this equipment, at least in the North American market. Hence the emergence of the vector processors, for example, for IBM's top-of-the-line model. This is the 3090, which is speeded up by the vector processor. According to the experts, this does not make it a supercomputer.

Like IBM, many other North American manufacturers are proposing to put "minisupers" on the market, based on parallel processing, but with substantially less speed and memory capacity and at a much lower price, which would put them within reach of smaller users. The minisuper, then, is smaller than the supercomputer but larger than the traditional mainframes (the 3090, for example, is a mainframe when it is not equipped with the vector processor).

Recent studies indicate that the world market for supercomputers will jump from under $1 billion per year, where it stands today, to about $6 billion in 1993. Two important changes have occurred in this market in the last 18 months: the entry of the Japanese in the business and the increased processing power of the minisupers. After Cray, the second and third largest manufacturers are, in order, Fujitsu and Hitachi.

Venezuela

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Guyana

PA1611221089 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] With the signing of several agreements, Venezuela and Guyana are establishing a commercial balance and

intensifying their bilateral relations. The presidents of the two countries, Carlos Andres Perez and Desmond Hoyte, have signed several cooperation agreements, including one whereby Venezuela will supply Guyana with electricity and Guyana will supply Venezuela with bauxite.

[Begin recording] [Perez] Very soon we will announce the establishment of several aluminum projects. President Hoyte and I also discussed the initiation of technical studies to determine the possibility of interconnecting our (El Guiri) system to supply Guyana with electricity. Therefore, these activities in Guyana will be the best way of measuring progress and activity in Venezuela.

[Hoyte, in English with simulataneous Spanish translation] Regarding Venezuela, we are considering the possibility of broadening our agreement, the scope of which is partial, to gain greater access to the Venezuelan market. Our businessmen have been in permanent contact with representatives of Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] and of other Venezuelan business organizations, with a view to identifying Venezuelan products that could be imported to Guyana, and which we are currently importing from other countries outside the region. [end recording]

At their meeting, Hoyte said that they had both agreed to accept the UN secretary general's proposal of having Alister McIntyre, an international official and vice president of the West Indian University in Jamaica, mediate between Guyana and Venezuela to solve the border problem between the two nations, because this would be the best solution.

Regarding Guyana's $16 million debt with the Venezuelan Investment Fund, it was announced that it is being paid.

Another of the agreements made between Presidents Perez and Hoyte pertains to the joint exploitation of lumber in Guyana, with the participation of the Venezuelan Corporation in Guayana [Corporacion Venezolana de Guyana] and observing the parameters of environmental protection.